Japanese govt, consulate disappointed with HJR 22-11. PAGE 5
2021 Toys for Tots Campaign starts in Guam and the CNMI. PAGE 12

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 196

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY OCTOBER 4, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Teams from the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety section set out Saturday morning to continue the search for a man whose kayak was reported capsized at around 2:41pm last Friday afternoon. The man was later found floating face down, near the barrier reef off the coast of the Garapan Fishing Base. KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Kayaker drowns in lagoon

Man found floating face down near barrier reef

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly two days of search, the Department of Public Safety found the body of the overdue kayaker floating face down near the barrier reef off the coast of Saipan Fishing Base.

According to DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the man, whose kayak was reported capsized at around 2pm last Friday, was found dead late Saturday morning near the barrier reef of the Saipan Lagoon.

At the scene last Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* saw DPS Boating Safety send out multiple vessels to search the barrier reef and bring back the

See KAYAKER on Page 4

Ex-Guam senator Castro is Torres' new chief of staff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has appointed former Guam senator William "Wil" Mendiola Castro as chief of staff for the CNMI Office of the Governor, effective last Friday.

Castro

Torres said Castro is no stranger to the CNMI as he had served as director of Institutional Effectiveness at the Northern Marianas College where he oversaw the successful lifting of NMC's show-cause status and reaffirmed its accreditation.

Castro is a former senator in

See EX-GUAM on Page 4

3 test positive over the weekend

Guam logs 198th COVID-related death; 57 hospitalized

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced over the weekend that three more incoming travelers have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 272.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center reported Friday the island's 198th COVID-19-related death, reporting that there are 57 hospitalized with COVID-19 as of Oct. 2. Of the 57, 34 are unvaccinated against COVID-19.

CHCC Friday said that one traveler was identified by travel screening and confirmed

See 3 TEST on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:47pm, Oct.3, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	82.2%
Days since last community transmission	193

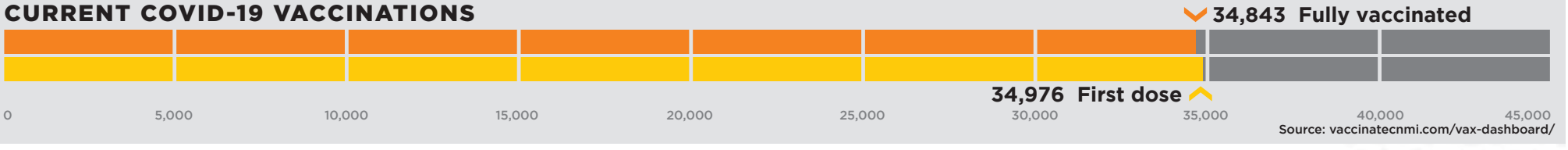
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,110
Fully Vaccinated:	29,386
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,866
Fully Vaccinated:	4,650
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	807

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	15,041	127	15,168
Recovered	11,213	159	11,372
Active	3,471	127	3,598
Deaths	197	1	198

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	269	3	272
Traced via Travel Screening	232	3	235
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
The project to remove the fishing vessel, Lady Carolina, from the Saipan Lagoon is finished.
PAGE 12

BUSINESS
Bank of Guam announced Friday that it will be officially closing its Chalan Piao location.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Scarlett Johansson and the Walt Disney Co. have settled her lawsuit over "Black Widow."
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Tyler's Gelatte Stone donates $1,500 to the Autism Society of the CNMI

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tyler's Gelatte Stone presented the Autism Society of the CNMI with a $1,500 check last Thursday at the Sugar King Park, with the money raised by Tyler's through its "Small Business Sundays"—a recurring event at the park where Tyler's donates $1 to ASCNMI for every gelato it sells and small businesses that participate in the event also make donations to the cause.

Present last Thursday for the handoff was Tyler's Gelatte Stone owner Ben Babauta Jr. and his family; ASCNMI vice president Romeo Cuellar; Saipan Mayor David Apatang; field operations director for the Saipan Mayor's Office Joann Aquino; and special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider.

Autism Society of the CNMI vice president Romeo Cuellar, center holding banner, shares a photo with Tyler's Gelatte Stone owner Ben Babauta Jr. and his family; Mayor David Apatang; field operations director for the Saipan Mayor's Office Joann Aquino; and special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider soon after receiving a $1,500 check last Thursday from Tyler's Gelatte Stone at its main location at the Sugar King Park.
JOSHUA SANTOS

In an interview with him after receiving the check, Cuellar said that he and ASCNMI are "pleasantly surprised" with how much was raised for the organization, and said the $1,500 will be used to support future ASCNMI events. Cuellar added that many events last year and this year had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but said he and the rest of ASCNMI are working to start events back up again.

Apatang lauded Babauta for his efforts and encouraged the other businesses in Sugar King Park to start their own programs to bring people into the park and to contribute to other good causes.

"This is a good contribution to the [ASCNMI]. I know Ben [Babauta Jr.] has had several events here to raise money for the [ASCNMI], so I encourage the other vendors here to get together and come up with other programs so we can bring in more people, and continue to contribute to [the cause]," said Apatang.

Babauta said that Tyler's had its grand opening at Sugar King Park on July 18 this year, and for the grand opening, he wanted to showcase his friends who owned small businesses, have a live band, release new gelato flavors, and donate to ASCNMI. The grand opening turned into "Small Business Sundays" and the past two "Small Business Sundays" were made possible through a Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant that Tyler's received through the Bank of Hawaii.

Babauta added that his son, Tyler, from whom Tyler's Gelatte Stone gets its name, is on the autism spectrum, and said that "it was really meaningful for us to do something for him" by donating to ASCNMI. As for when the fourth "Small Business Sunday" will take place, Babauta said there is nothing planned yet, but several vendors are interested in participating.

Senate confirms Magofna as CEC commissioner

» Early voting will start this Saturday

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter president Proserpina T. Magofna and her boyfriend, police official Anthony Macaranas, pose with senators after the Senate confirmed Friday her appointment as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the Third Senatorial District or Saipan and the Northern Islands. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Senate confirmed Friday the appointment of former Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter president Proserpina T. Magofna to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the Third Senatorial District or Saipan and the Northern Islands.

All nine senators voted "yes" to adoption of the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations' report that recommends the confirmation of Magofna's appointment.

With the confirmation, the CEC board now has six commissioners. The CCC commissioners failed to obtain a quorum last Sept. 10 as there are only five commissioners and vice chair Doris Ann Aldan-Atalig of Saipan could not make it to the meeting as she was off-island at the time.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), who chairs the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said the committee is convinced that Magofna has the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as a member of the CEC board.

Magofna said in an interview she looks forward to working with the commissioners and the CEC staff, addressing the concerns that were brought up by the senators.

Magofna said she accepted her appointment because it's a great opportunity to be of service to the community.

She currently works as human resources director for Crowne Plaza Saipan and Guam. She used to serve as human resource personal for Laulau Bay Resort and Best Sunshine.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said CEC has a very knowledgeable executive director who can guide Magofna along the way to make the commission more seamless and be equitable and fair during the undertaking of the election process.

"Some may say [the CEC is] only good during election time, but really, you guys have a lot of things to do," Hofschneider said.

The CEC has been preparing for the Oct. 16 special election to fill a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat. Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party, and Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party will be squaring off.

The special election is being held to fill the Precinct 3 seat left vacant by the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco last July 23.

The seven-day early voting will start this Saturday, Oct. 9.

Former Eucon teacher sues Eucon president

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former Eucon teacher has filed motion with the U.S. District Court for NMI to allow her to amend her initial complaint against Eucon International School to include the Eucon president as one of the defendants.

Yantao Xia, who is suing Eucon International School, is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to include Eucon's president, Hsieh-Kan Christian Wei, as a defendant.

Xia, through attorney Cong Nie, said Eucon identified Wei, who is president of Eucon, as the person whose authority includes hiring, recruiting, and terminating employees.

Nie asked the court to allow him to amend and extend the deadline for joinder and amendment.

Wei allegedly participated in Eucon's fraud in having CWM Trust LLC charge Xia for CW-1 processing fees. Eucon produced documents showing that Wei is an owner and the chief executive officer or manager of CWM Trust LLC and Eucon, through Wei, had signed a document entitled "service agreement."

According to Nie, Eucon's discovery responses further reveal that Wei had control of CWM Trust LLC and is likely the person behind the alleged fraud.

Nie said Eucon's discovery responses reveal that Wei would qualify as an employer of Xia under the Fair Labor Standards Act or FLSA and the Minimum Wage and Hour Act and therefore be liable, personally, to Xia.

"Xia anticipates that in opposition, Eucon will reassert, without support, that this court has no…jurisdiction because there is no FLSA coverage. That position is meritless. FLSA coverage is a substantive, not jurisdictional, issue," Nie said.

According to court documents, last Feb. 17, 2021, Xia sued Chinese Bible Church International Inc., doing business as Eucon International School, alleging breach of contract and other labor wage violations.

Eucon has denied all the allegations of the former teacher.

ARMATECH

Electric Motor Rewinder and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Accepting New Patients!
- State of the Art General & Cosmetic Dental Clinic
- Most Insurances accepted. **Medicaid & Presumptive Eligibility Medicaid Patients Welcome!**
- **No Insurance/No Problem! NEW PATIENT Appointment Only $20.00!***
- Provider for the Island Smiles Discount Dental Plan. Visit **www.paradisedentalspa.com** for more plan information.

Award-Winning Dentists
Dr. Nelson Krum & Dr. Richard Arbuckle
Paradise Dental Spa
234-4040 or text 785-7305
Located on Middle Road, Gualo Rai
paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
*Full Exam, Digital X-rays, Oral Cancer Screening Periodontal Evaluation
www.paradisedentalspa.com instagram.com/paradisedentalspa facebook.com/paradisedentalspa

LIMITED TIME
PUMPKIN IS BACK
McCafé
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD:
OPEN DAILY FROM 6AM to 10PM DAILY
MOBILE ORDER & PAY: 7AM - 9PM
(CURBSIDE, FRONT COUNTER/TAKEOUT)
DRIVE THRU: 6AM - 10PM
TEL. NO.: (670) 235-8577
GARAPAN EXPRESS:
OPEN DAILY - DINE IN & TAKE OUT: 6AM - 12AM
MOBILE ORDER & PAY: 7AM - 9PM
(CURBSIDE, FRONT COUNTER/TAKEOUT)
DRIVE THRU: 6AM - 10PM
DRIVE-THRU: OPEN 24 HOURS DAILY
TEL. NO.: (670) 233-8577

Torres vetoes provision 'that would delay spending of ARPA funds'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has vetoed a provision in the fiscal year 2022 budget bill that mandates that no changes be made to the allocations of outside sourced funds in the American Rescue Plan Act spending plan without legislative consent in the form of a House joint resolution.

Torres said he strongly disapproves of this section of the bill in its entirety because any additional authorizations or appropriations of ARPA funding is not only unnecessary but would delay efficient processes already in place.

The ARPA funding provision was among the issues that Torres line-item vetoed in the budget bill that he signed into Public Law 22-08.

The governor noted that significant changes to the spending plan were made between the April and July 2021 budget submission in order to restore the working hours of government employees from 64 to 80, to reinstate furloughed employees, and to cancel a reduction-in-force.

"While conversation, oversight, and cooperation regarding the adequate expenditure of these resources are welcomed, the fact of the matter remains that the purposes of the available resources have already been identified and are for costs directly related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, off-setting revenue loss, bolstering economic recovery, and providing premium pay for essential workers," he said.

Torres added that these ARPA funds are already accompanied by rigorous reporting and oversight mechanisms within the federal government and are locally monitored by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Thus, he said, these funds are treated as a grant governed by the accountability procedures already in place under CNMI and federal law.

The governor said the CNMI is adept at the management and fiscal controls of federal funds and has the statutory obligation to ensure the prudent expenditure of these funds.

Torres also vetoed the bill's provision that gives expenditure authorities to all branches, municipalities, departments, agencies, instrumentalities, and offices to which ARPA funds are allocated, plus the authority to reprogram funds allocated for personnel expenses to non-personnel expenses in accordance with the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act.

"Because this provision unnecessarily interferes with ARPA fund allocations already in place and hinders our ability to stabilize the finances of the government and account for economic disruptions caused by the pandemic, I must respectfully veto this provision," Torres said.

The governor signed into law Thursday the $103.3-million budget bill for the CNMI government's operations for fiscal year 2022, averting a partial shutdown of government operations.

Combining the $103.3 million from the general fund and the $175 million allocated to the CNMI for ARPA, the CNMI government will have at its disposal a total of $278.38 million for government operations in the new fiscal year.

Cup Bab is latest ProaPerks Partner

Cup Bab Restaurant is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 5% discount (valid for dine-in customers only) when they dine at Cup Bab Restaurant.

Cup Bab Restaurant joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Coral Garden Hotel, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Hotel Americano, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mama D's Cafe, Mariana Lighthouse, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk Tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Dental Spa, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

Cup Bab is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion to ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks. NMC

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

KAYAKER

From Page 1

body of the deceased to be transported to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The swimmer was initially identified as Juan A. Aldan but DPS has yet to officially release the name of the victim as of press time.

According to information from Pangelinan, DPS Central received a report of a capsized kayak inside the reef across the National Office Supply at around 2:41pm on Friday, Oct. 1. Patrol units and Boating Safety responded to the area. At 2:58pm, a DPS Jet Boat responded from the Smiling Cove Marina and proceeded south to the kayak's location. At 3:18pm, DPS Jet Boat arrived at the capsized vessel where it was observed that there was no operator in the area.

At around 6:54pm that same day, the search was called off due to low light and continued early the next morning.

A separate news release from the U.S Coast Guard stated that the Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and DPS coordinated the search. The Coast Guard cutters *Munro* and *Oliver Henry* were deployed to assist in the search.

The statement described the kayaker as a 60-year-old male who was last seen fishing at 2pm, Friday.

At 4pm, Friday, Coast Guard Forces Micronesia| Sector Guam watchstanders received a report from Marine Safety Division Saipan stating an overturned kayak had been found off a reef. A small backpack with an identification card was also recovered floating nearby.

EX-GUAM

From Page 1

the 34th and 35th Guam Legislature. He has extensive public service experience with the Government of Guam, having served as director of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, the central planning authority of Guam, and as a Cabinet official and senior adviser to former Guam governor Eddie Calvo. He also served on several national, regional, and territorial policy and planning bodies relative to oceans, fisheries, coastal and coral matters.

Torres said that, as a senator, Castro is credited, along with the late Rep. Ivan A. Blanco, for having played instrumental roles in the establishment of the Marianas Working Group between the offices of the governors of Guam and the CNMI, with the participation of both territories' legislatures.

"Wil has played an instrumental role in building bridges within the Marianas. He is no outsider, as he has served our Northern Marianas College and championed one of the most successful intergovernmental initiatives between the CNMI and Guam with the establishment of the Marianas Working Group, which was critical in economic collaboration and in our immediate recovery during Super Typhoon Yutu," Torres said.

The governor said Castro is exceedingly qualified, and that he looks forward to having him serve the community as his chief of staff.

Castro has worked under both Republican and Democratic leaders in Guam and has focused on creating collaborative solutions across party lines.

Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan) said Castro is a solid pick as he is able to work with all stakeholders regardless of party.

"As senior adviser to a governor, it is clear that he understands the challenges facing the Marianas. Definitely a big picture thinker," said Babauta in a statement.

House of Representatives minority leader Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) in a statement said Castro is his personal friend, and that they had several opportunities to work together on Marianas initiatives during his (Demapan) tenure as chief of staff.

"He is a trusted and respected leader across the Marianas, and I am excited to see him bring more positive results as he fills the position I left behind this past January to serve my third term in the House of Representatives," said Demapan, who was appointed by Torres as chief of staff in January 2019.

Castro is a Grand Knight and 4th Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus, an active community volunteer in Guam, and has represented Guam in several government boards., including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the U.S Coral Reef Task Force, and the Commission on Decolonization.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, Castro received his bachelor's degree in secondary education from the University of Guam, a master's degree from Harvard University, and attained doctoral candidate status at Columbia University.

Castro holds certifications from Stanford University, teaching certifications, and in sexual harassment awareness.

Bautista said Castro is engaged to Dr. Debra Tudela Cabrera of Saipan, a former dean of Academic Programs at NMC and a former member of the White House Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She is currently a tenure-track professor at the University of Guam. Castro and Cabrera are raising four children: Ashley, Cameren, Liam, and Mariana.

3 TEST

From Page 1

positive through fifth-day testing on Oct. 1. The next day, Saturday, CHCC said two more travelers were identified by travel screening and confirmed positive through arrival testing on Oct. 1 and 2, respectively.

In both announcements, CHCC said the individuals have been quarantined and are being actively monitored, and that CHCC's contact tracing team has already begun reaching out to those in closest contact with the three travelers.

CHCC also said in both announcements that there are currently no active COVID-19-related hospitalizations in the CNMI.

The JIC in Guam on Friday reported the island's 198th COVID-19 related death, an unvaccinated 66-year-old male with underlying health conditions. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 23 and was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City on Sept. 29.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, first gentleman Jeff Cook, and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio on Friday sent their condolences to the man's family, and Leon Guerrero added that it will be through the Guam community's care for one another that the island will protect itself from COVID-19 moving forward.

"For those who grieve, may your loved one's memories live forever in your hearts. Though these times [are] unprecedented, our people's resilient spirit and unwavering commitment to do what is best for one another will help us forge ahead to protect those we love," said Leon Guerrero.

Japanese govt, consulate disappointed with HJR 22-11

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japanese government and its Consular Office of Japan on Saipan have both expressed disappointment with a House joint resolution introduced in the CNMI Legislature last week that condemned Japan's decision to dump treated nuclear waste from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean.

In a news briefing last Friday, Cconsul Ono Kazuhiko, who leads the Japan consulate on Saipan, said that House Joint Resolution 22-11—which was introduced by House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan)—stems from a "misunderstanding" that Japan's plan is to dispose of nuclear waste directly into the Pacific Ocean. He said what will be released into the Pacific Ocean is in fact "ALPS treated water."

"ALPS treated water" is the byproduct of a process where radioactive materials in water are removed by an Advanced Liquid Processing System to meet regulatory standards for discharge, with the exception of tritium.

Japan announced in April this year a plan to start releasing in two years into the Pacific more than a million tons of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant, which was destroyed in the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

During Friday's press briefing, Ono said the International Atomic Energy Agency in July this year approved Japan's plan to release ALPS treated water in a "safe and transparent way," and said that IAEA experts will be closely monitoring and reviewing the release of treated water closely to ensure that it is "conducted safely" and "in line with international practices"

On the subject of leftover tritium in the treated water, Ono explained that tritium is very closely related to hydrogen, making it very difficult and almost impossible, using current technology, to separate it from water. According to an online definition, tritium is a rare and radioactive isotope of hydrogen.

Ono assured, though, that tritium exists naturally in rain, seawater, and tap water, and does not accumulate in the human body, as it is excreted together with water from the body. Ono added that according to a program used by Japan to simulate the diffusion of treated water into the Pacific Ocean, the concentration of tritium will be almost the same as the tritium level of natural seawater.

Using presentation slides, Ono shared that 1.25 million tons of treated water that Japan currently has in tanks—which is almost equivalent in volume to the Japanese baseball stadium, the Tokyo Dome—merely contains 15 grams, or about one tablespoon, of tritium.

Ono concluded Friday's press briefing by saying that Japan and the CNMI have had a "close relationship and story dating back to 100 years ago." He pointed out that on April 6, 2011, the CNMI Senate passed a resolution to show solidarity with Japan after the devastating Tohoku earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011. HJR 22-11, however, may strain the Japan-CNMI relationship, said Ono.

He added that the U.S. government itself has shown support for Japan's plan to release treated water, and asked why the CNMI Legislature, with the CNMI being a U.S. territory, condemns Japan's plans "regardless of support by the [the] U.S. government."

Ono also asked why the House is raising an issue now, with the plan already scheduled to begin in a year and a half from now.

Finally, Ono also asked the House why Japan was singled out in particular. During the press briefing, Ono again pointed to presentation slides that showed— according to data compiled from the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization, Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power, China Nuclear Energy Association, Taiwan Power Company, and other energy authorities in East Asia—that Japan produces below 22 TBq annually, compared to South Korea which produced about 122 TBq in 2019 and parts of China that produced between 87-124 TBq in 2019.

According to an online definition, Bq, or becquerel, is a unit of measurement for the quantity of radioactive material. In this case, TBq is a measurement of how much tritium is released.

"Why does the House Legislature only target and condemn Japan, regardless of being one of the countries that discharge the least amount of tritium contained [in] treated water?" asked Ono.

Medicaid crucial to leveling field for health care in US territories

» Equitable Medicaid funding is critical to improve health, reduce cancer disparities

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Cancer patients and survivors, health care providers, patient advocates and territorial leadership in Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands spoke last week about the importance of Medicaid in the U.S. territories during a nationwide virtual event hosted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

The discussion focused on the role of Medicaid in improving access to health care and addressing health disparities, responding to natural disasters and the pandemic, and the major problems with block grant funding for Medicaid in the territories. The event also addresses the ongoing issue of securing additional federal Medicaid funding for the territories. This supplement funding was set to run out Thursday, Sept. 30, but was included in the continuing resolution Congress passed to keep the government open. That resolution expires on Dec. 3.

Health coverage through Medicaid plays a significant role in improving access to health for many people with low incomes, including children, people with disabilities and millions of cancer patients and survivors. Medicaid funding is also important for supporting hospitals and health systems. Medicaid is a key pillar in addressing public health and supporting the health systems in Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands, where it's also one of the largest sources of health insurance.

"We know that access to health coverage is key to surviving cancer. In fact, coverage through Medicaid can be the difference between life and death for people facing a cancer diagnosis who do not have access to quality, affordable health coverage," said Cynthia Au, ACS CAN Hawaii and Guam government relations director. "Unfortunately, the Medicaid programs in the territories have been challenged with long-term funding issues that threaten access to health coverage and funding for their hospital systems."

In the states, Medicaid funding changes in response to health care costs and the number of people who qualify for the program. However, Medicaid in Guam and the rest of the U.S. territories is partly funded through block grants—where this base funding does not adjust to meet growing health care costs, or increased need from economic downturns, natural disasters, or pandemics.

"Ensuring adequate and equitable funding is critical to reduce health disparities, especially cancer disparities, improve cancer outcomes and save more lives," Au added. ***(PR)***

Alexa, what's the special this month?
FREE AMAZON ECHO DOT
WITH ANY INTERNET PLAN!
50Mbps Home Internet
$115/mo
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 10/04/21 to 10/29/21. Must activate any Internet plan to receive a FREE Amazon Echo Dot. Or get 15% OFF with an existing Internet plan. Subject to credit check. See stores or visit www.ite.net for details.
PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

$93.7M federal loan to the CNMI is forgiven

A continuing resolution that President Joe Biden signed into law Thursday night contains language (Section 1601) that completely cancels the $93.7 million debt the Commonwealth took on for a Community Disaster Loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to Delegate Gregorio KIlili C. Sablan's weekly e-newsletter on Sunday.

It said that after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in October 2018, Torres asked Sablan for a change in federal law that would allow him to get the loan to fund government operations. Community Disaster Loans are capped by law at $5 million and are only available to municipalities, not a state-level government like the Commonwealth.

"I did include the necessary statutory change, allowing the governor to borrow, in Section 311 of the fiscal 2021 omnibus appropriation, Public Law 116-260, enacted in December 2020. FEMA had already provided the governor with $5 [million] and he quickly borrowed $88,734,930 more.

"Given how shaky our economy is, however, I did not want the people of the Marianas saddled with so much debt. I was able to include forgiveness language in the Homeland Security appropriation for [fiscal year 2022] earlier this year, but that spending bill has not yet passed the House. With the same language included in the continuing resolution this week, however, the Marianas debt is now completely cancelled," said Sablan. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios share a photo with Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel, and members of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter outside the Office of the Governor Thursday. Shortly before the photo was taken, Torres and Palacios proclaimed Oct. 3 to Oct. 9 as CNMI Fire Prevention Week and Oct. 3 as National Fallen Firefighters Day during a proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor conference room. JOSHUA SANTOS

CNMI observes Fire Prevention Week on Oct. 3-9

» Oct. 3 was National Fallen Firefighters Day

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oct. 3 to Oct. 9 is CNMI Fire Prevention Week, and Oct. 3 was National Fallen Firefighters Day. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios made the week and day official during a proclamation signing Thursday at the Office of the Governor conference room.

Joining Torres and Palacios were Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel, and members of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

During the proclamation, it was learned that more than 2,770 people were killed in home fires in the U.S. in 2019. It was also learned that smoke alarms detect smoke much quicker than a person can, and that in the event of a home fire breaking out, an individual has about two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm goes off to the fire growing stronger. As such, Thursday's proclamation included a provision that urged homeowners to understand the sounds of a smoke alarm, and how to properly respond.

The proclamation also marked Oct. 3 as National Fallen Firefighters Day. Torres calls upon all citizens to recognize the service and dedication of fire and emergency services personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty by lowering both the CNMI and U.S. flags to half-staff last Sunday, Oct. 3. Torres also asked the community to take part in Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters on Oct. 3, by tolling a bell and pausing afterward for a moment of silence.

In a social media post about the proclamation signing, the Office of the Governor said that Torres and Palacios are grateful for the hard work and service of the CNMI's firefighters and first responders for their dedication to ensuring the safety and security of the CNMI, and, as members of the COVID-19 Task Force, for keeping the CNMI safe and healthy.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date:	Closing Date:
2021-034	CDBG-DR Loan Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	Sep 20, 2021	Oct 5, 2021 4:00 PM
2021-028	CDBG-DR Housing Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	Sep 20, 2021	Oct 5, 2021 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-032

SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) FOR POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation (Design, Supply and Installation) of SCADA system at its Primary Power Plant (Power Plant No.1), Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-032, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 22, 2021** to manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

• SINAPALO • SONGSONG • SAN JOSE • AS LITO • AS MAHETOG • AS MATUIS • AS PERDIDO • AS TEO •

• CAPITOL HILL • CHALAN KANOA • CHALAN KIYA • CHALAN LAULAU • CHALAN PIAO • DANDAN • FINASISU • GARAPAN • GUALO RAI •

• OLEAI • PAPAGO • PUERTO RICO • SADOG TASI • SAN ANTONIO • SAN ROQUE • SAN VICENTE • SUSUPE • TALAFOFO • TANAPAG • TAPOCHAO •

MARIANAS
Village Pride

Be an MVP!

Improving the quality of life in The Marianas begins with making our villages better places to live.
Having Marianas Village Pride means taking care of our homes, schools, streets, and village facilities for all to enjoy. Join us as we elevate what it means to have Marianas Village Pride.

ADOPT-A-MEDIAN PROGRAM
Open to schools, residents, organizations, and businesses

Help make our streets and sidewalks safer for pedestrians and motorists! Schools, groups, families, and businesses can adopt, clean, and paint medians, sidewalks, or crosswalks in their villages. GCEA will provide the supplies. Students, you will earn service hours for your participation. Go to cnmieconomy.com to sign up today! Together, We Can!

MVP VILLAGE FLAG ART CONTEST
For Middle and High School Students

We need your help to design flags for our villages! Use your artistic talents to show us what makes your village a great place to live, and be sure to tell us what makes your village special and unique. Teachers, download the contest criteria and design template at cnmieconomy.com.

MVP BUS STOP BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST
Open to schools, residents, organizations, and businesses

Beautify, design, and paint a bus stop in your village and compete for awesome prizes! Show us what makes your village unique and beautiful. Download the application at cnmieconomy.com and submit it by Nov. 1st. Students earn service hours for their participation.

MVP COLORING PAGES AND LESSONS
For elementary school students

From taking care of the environment to being a better neighbor, let's continue to learn how we can do our part to make our villages better places to live. Coloring pages and lessons can be downloaded at cnmieconomy.com.

MVP CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST
Open to schools, residents, organizations, and businesses

Beautify and decorate your home, community center or basketball court, village's entrance, and business for a chance to win prizes! Let's make The Marianas festive and beautiful this holiday season. Sign up to participate by Nov. 1. The contest begins on Nov. 29. See contest criteria at cnmieconomy.com.

#BeAnMVP #MarianasVillagePride #TogetherWeCanMarianas

• NAVY HILL • MARPI • LOWER BASE • KOBLERVILLE • KANNAT TABLA • KAGMAN • I NAFTAN • I LIYANG •

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

For more information about how to participate, visit cnmieconomy.com.
Engage with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers on
@cnmieconomy

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 196

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The case for vaccine mandates keeps getting stronger

Vaccine mandates work. Just ask New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, whose state gave roughly 600,000 health care workers until this past Monday to get a COVID-19 jab or lose their jobs.

Much naysaying ensued, accompanied by predictions that doctors, nurses, orderlies and other holdouts would quit en masse rather than allow a needle to compromise their liberty. They've chosen instead to do the right thing.

Thousands got their shots and, as of this week, 87% of New York's hospital workers were fully vaccinated —up from 77% in mid-August. About 92% of hospital staff have received at least one dose, as have some 92% of nursing home workers and 89% of adult care workers.

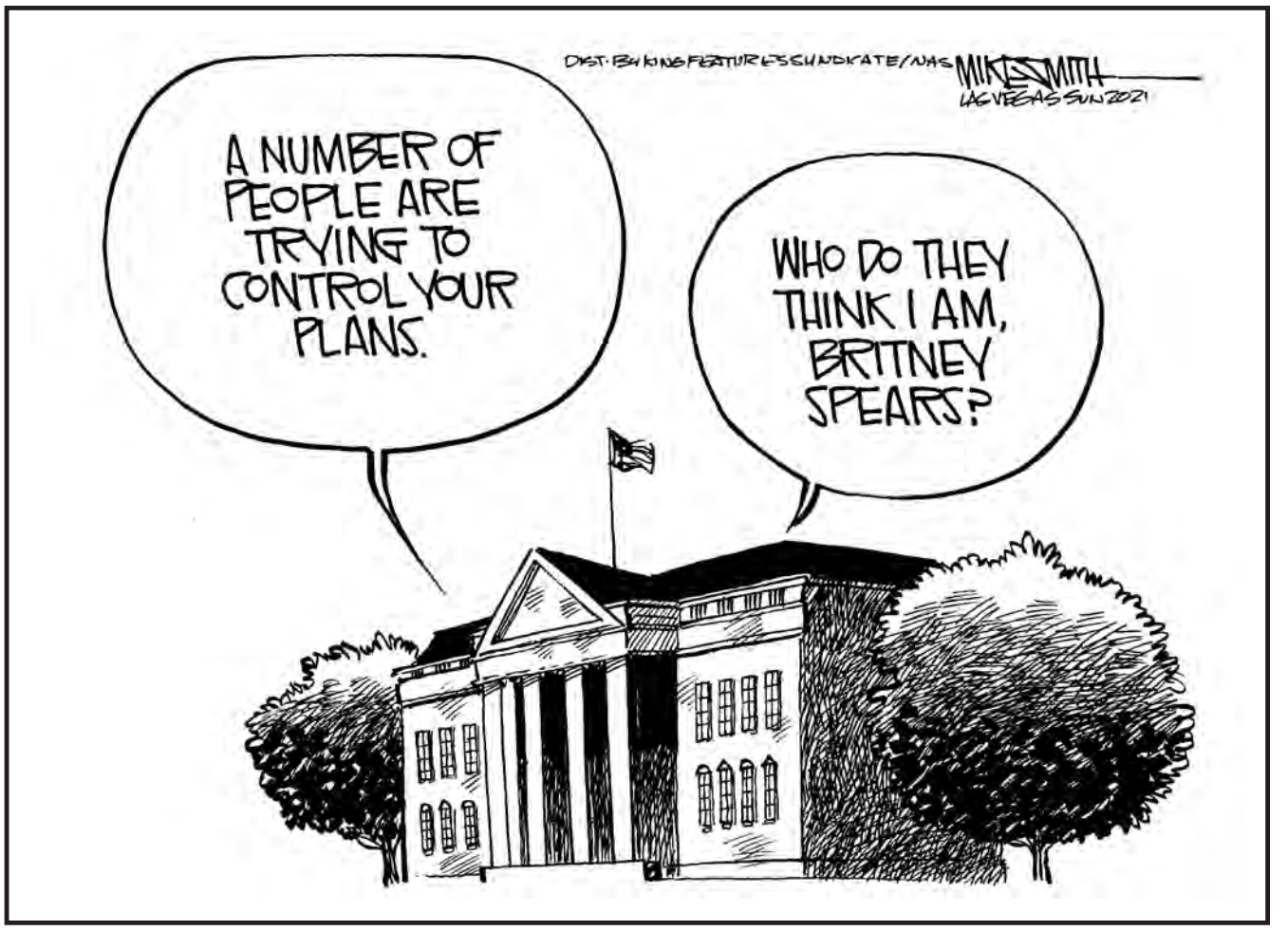
It may be too soon to say that workers in every sector of the economy across a country as regionally diverse as the U.S. will respond to vaccination deadlines in the same way. COVID-19 has taught that it pays to be humble about pandemic forecasting. But with the economic stakes so high, strong measures are worth the political risk. Hats off to Hochul, who imposed the New York mandate with clarity and courage, and got results.

Her stance was politically perilous, because New York's hospitals are strained, and there is still strong opposition to vaccines and mandates throughout the state, particularly upstate. But a month after taking office, Hochul enforced the requirement and set up a command center to monitor hospital staff shortages. She signed an executive order allowing retired health care workers, out-of-state medical professionals and others to provide care. She's also lined up National Guard personnel to be ready to help, but so far none have been needed.

Mandates for health care workers are being imposed elsewhere. Benchmark Senior Living, the biggest assisted-living network in New England, enforced mandates over the summer for its roughly 6,000 employees. Few of them quit. Houston Methodist, a Texas hospital network that employs about 25,000 workers, issued a mandate in April —and lost only about 150 workers. ChristianaCare, a nonprofit hospital operator based in Delaware that employs more than 12,000 people, said it has seen about 150 employees depart since announcing its mandate in July. Novant Health, a North Carolina-based company that runs 15 hospitals and hundreds of physician practices, also issued a mandate in July, and at this point about 99% of its 35,000 workers are vaccinated. The company fired about 175 employees who refused to get a shot.

In health care more than in most sectors of the economy, workers need to be vaccinated to protect patients as well as themselves. Laying off noncompliant workers is strong medicine. But more of it may be needed to establish a strong defense against COVID-19. Governors of all other states should take note.

©2021 *Bloomberg L.P.*


DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2021
A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO CONTROL YOUR PLANS.
WHO DO THEY THINK I AM, BRITNEY SPEARS?

Nuclear-powered submarine deal and English-speaking countries

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

More examples of American-led geomilitary activity in the Asia-Pacific region are popping up as we move into the last quarter of 2021. American decisions to further enhance U.S. military advantage continues to be made, based on the perceived need to sustain, and grow U.S. power across the Deep Blue continent.

One expression of this behavior is found in the recent pact entered into between the United States, Australia, and the UK to build nuclear-powered fast-attack submarines for the Australian government. The British government is backing the effort through technology sharing on weapons systems as well as artificial intelligence.

It is unclear if this nuclear-powered submarine construction arrangement will translate into the Australian government also arming these submarines with missiles carrying nuclear warheads.

China and Russia view this development as a new act of aggression. This pact signals to the world that distrust is growing in ways that will lead to increased tensions between China, America, and Australia because China views this pact as a direct assault and challenge to its desire to fully control and influence its near seas areas such as the South China Sea.

As more and more countries design, build and bring into operation undersea weapons of war that are nuclear-powered and/or armed with nuclear warheads, the possibility of future miscalculation in heavily used sea routes such as the South China Sea could quickly escalate into hot war.

Marianas Islands caught in the mix

Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, and our Chamorro people are literally caught in the mix of what amounts to a multinational arms race and preparations for war that require use and freedom of action by major military powers throughout the western Pacific and Deep Blue ocean continent.

China, Russia, and the United States all maintain operationally viable fleets of nuclear-powered attack submarines intended to carry out offensive operations and strikes. Russia and the U.S. are also working on operationalizing fleets of unmanned undersea weapons of war that may be nuclear-powered and carry nuclear warheads.

Technology and information transfers

This development constitutes a major technological transfer deal that will enable Australia to have the wherewithal to plan and construct nuclear-powered submarines. Having a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines means that Australia will be able to train with the Americans and British navies to project military power closer to China, thereby creating a new deterrence measure intended to dissuade the Chinese from unilaterally starting a hot war in the region.

Proponents of this deal argue in part that this development is necessary for the United States because it allows America to exercise its influence through actions taken by key English-speaking allied nations.

More training conducted by the west, will further incentivize the Chinese to grow their military abilities to identify, track, locate and sink nuclear-powered submarines conducting operations in China's near seas regions. Russia is further incentivized to find ways to counter additional advantages that the United States will gain from having Australia build out a new submarine fleet.

Why now?

The United States needs as much help as possible from its key English-speaking allies. Getting into an arrangement where nuclear-powered submarines will be built and used will give the Australian navy the ability to stay under the water for months at a time. This alone will make it more difficult for the Chinese navy to identify, locate, and track these kinds of submarines.

A new American-led security arrangement is needed now because China continues to grow its military and is not planning on slowing down anytime soon. In our region, the Chinese and American navies can be interpreted now as peer competitors, even though traditional units of measure favor the United States militarily.

Why the stakes are so high

The stakes are so high for our overall region because close to two

See COUNTRIES on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Complying with the mandates of the CNMI Constitution

Dear Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and members of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission:

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with executive director Lee of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission to discuss issues of importance to many Chamorros of the Northern Mariana Islands pertinent to the CNMI Constitution, specifically, Article 23. The following excerpts of the CNMI Constitution:

Article XXIII Official Seal, Flag and Language:

The official seal of the Commonwealth shall consist of a circular field of blue having in its center a white star superimposed on a gray latte stone, surrounded by the traditional Carolinian mwáár consisting of the following flowers: Ilangilang, flores mayo (seyúr) angagha, and teibwo, on the outer border, and the words encircling the mwáár, "Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" and "Official Seal."

Source: Second Const. Conv. Amend. 43 (1985).

Section 2: Official Flag.

The official flag of the Commonwealth shall consist, on both sides of a rectangular field of blue, a white star in the center, superimposed on a gray latte stone, surrounded by the traditional Carolinian mwáár. The dimensions of the flag, the mwáár, the star and latte stone shall be provided by law.

Source: Second Const. Conv. Amend. 43 (1985).

Section 3: Official Language.

The official language of the Commonwealth shall be Chamorro, Carolinian and English, as deemed appropriate and as enforced by the Legislature. The Legislature may provide that government proceedings and documents shall be in at least one of the three languages. This section shall not be subject to judicial review.

Source: Second Const. Conv. Amend. 43 (1985).

I decided to inquire at CLRC office, and to write an official letter to the CLRC when I saw that CLRC was conducting a competition and were soliciting artist from the public who are 18 years of age or younger, to sketch a logo for the CLRC, as part of an official art competition, based on Article 23. This project by CLRC is commendable because it supports local artist participation in the creation of the official logo for CLRC and to participate in the CNMI government sponsored activities.

Since the approval of the 44 amendments to the CNMI Constitution in the second Constitutional Convention in 1985, amendment to Article XXlll has created confusion and insensitivity toward the Chamorro people because the sacred symbol—*Achu Latte* or Latte Stone—the symbol of the *Taotao Tåno* or Chamorros who are the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands archipelago, from southernmost Guahan to the northernmost Urakas in the Ganis or Northern Islands, began to be obscured and slowly disappear from the CNMI government's official seal and official flag, including official government department, division and agency logos.

The issue on this official logo is that there is no uniformity of what "official logo" in the CNMI government is. On many occasions, the official logo of government departments and entities—Executive, Legislative, and the most recent logo of the Judiciary branch—we often do not see with clarity and distinction the "latte stone" as the cultural symbol of the Chamorro people, the indigenous of the Mariana Islands archipelago.

The "latte stone" is mostly obscured by the star and the flowers—the symbol of Carolinian *mwáár* in the official logo. And in most instances, the *achu latte* is obscured by the symbol and logo of the respective branch, department, and agencies.

A classic example of the disappearance of the symbol of the *achu latte* is the recent official art painting on the west-facing or main highway side wall of the Ada Gymnasium. It was painted and contracted by the CNMI Arts Council under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and paid for with United States grants monies under the National Endowment for the Arts.

The wall was painted in preparation for the upcoming hosting by the CNMI f or the Pacific Mini Games sports competition originally scheduled for 2021 but was rescheduled to June 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If this art rendition on the Ada Gym is kept as is, then the entire delegation of athletes and visitors from the Pacific Island nations will not recognize the cultural and sacred symbol of the indigenous people of the Marianas, the Chamorro, a symbol that stood for thousands of years, and endured four colonial powers.

The official logo for the Division of Youth Services under the same department, DCCA, is the same issue. The entire latte structure in the center is replaced with striped red, white, and blue lines depicting a facial rendition. The Carolinian *mwáár* encircles the facial rendition. A tiny latte structure is relegated to the bottom of the Carolinian *mwáár* beyond recognition. These are just a fraction of the issues with official logos and official CNMI seal propagated in the CNMI government and federal programs that are prevalent and pervasive only on Saipan in the last decade or so.

The issues plaguing the "official seal" of CNMI government branches, departments, division, and agency logos is similar to the "official flag" where the latte structure—the Chamorro cultural and sacred symbol, *achu latte*—is obscured by the star and the Carolinian *mwáár* beyond recognition. There is no standard and consistency as of this writing.

Another issue is the "official language." I came across numerous translations of official documents where the English language was the first official, Carolinian the second official language, and the last official language was the Chamorro, which is the language of the indigenous people of the NMI.

This official practice in the CNMI government has placed the indigenous language, Chamorro, as the last official language in the CNMI. This practice began to appear after the second constitutional convention amendments were approved in 1985, and became effective under Article 23 (XXlll).

My question is how can an indigenous language that represents the Chamorros, officially recognized in 1977 as one of the two official languages (and English) at the beginning of the constitutional government in the Northern Mariana Islands in 1978, now relegated to the last "official language" in CNMI government documents? And should the official language translations be "in that order"—Chamorro, Carolinian, English or Chamorro, English, Carolinian—consistent with the 1985 amendment?

The inclusion of the Carolinian language and the Carolinian *mwáár* were officially recognized in 1985 as one of the official languages and symbol in the CNMI under Amendment 43 of the 44 amendments introduced in the second constitutional convention.

As we are all aware, the Chamorro language has been spoken by the indigenous people for thousands of years here in the Northern Mariana Islands. This language survival and preservation is credited to the Catholic mission in the 1660s to present and, most importantly, to the fierce resistance of the Chamorro women who ensured that the language survived through their children.

For a statistical and comparative purpose, the 2010 U.S. Census stated that there were an estimated 12,000 Chamorro population in the CNMI and about 2,000 Carolinian population. The recent 2020 U.S. Census have yet to be officially published, as this will be an additional and an important resource material in moving forward on the status of Chamorros in the Northern Marianas.

Another equally important issue is a CNMI statute that became Public Law 1-8, after Senate Bill 3-3, S.D.1, H.D.3, C.D.1 was "disapproved" by the First CNMI governor, Carlos S. Camacho, on Aug. 4, 1978. But the third legislature under the leadership of the late Speaker Oscar C. Rasa and Senate President Lorenzo I. Guerrero overrode the governor's disapproval on Aug. 10, 1978.

This public law provided the language that government "*boards or commission shall have at least one member who is of a Carolinian descent...*" However, the law did not provide a language that "at least one member who is of a Chamorro descent" shall be appointed as well.

This statute has yet to be repealed and has not been challenged, whether it is constitutional in the courts. I believe that this statute is discriminatory against the indigenous Chamorros and it is also discriminatory against all ethnic groups in the NMI as far as meeting the qualification to be appointed in CNMI boards and commissions.

Lastly, as probably some members in this important and honorable commission may be aware, that my family, the Hofschneiders—are both of German descent and a cultural and ancestral lineage to Yap Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, in the municipality of *Gagil*, in the village of *Miup*. My cultural and ancestral lineage to Yap comes from my great-grandmother who married a German gentleman during the German colonial administration of the Caroline Islands in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

My grandfather, Henry Gigabai Hofschneider (died and is buried on Tinian) ,along with many Chamorros who settled in Yap in the 1800s during the German period, were returned to the Mariana Islands after World War II in 1947. Thereafter, my grandfather became a community leader in the NMI.

My father, Richard Villagomez Hofschneider, is one of 10 siblings who was born in Yap, but were eventually resettled on Tinian and Saipan after World War II. Also, my grandmother, Ana Dela Cruz Villagomez, on my father's side, was buried at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery in the early 1950s. She, too, was part of the 1947 resettlement from Yap, and then to Saipan for medical attention during the U.S. Navy administration of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Both my late father and mother, and majority of their siblings, including my grandparents, spoke fluent Yapese language and are descendants of Yap's cultural symbol, the "stone money." When I was growing up on Tinian, I always heard my parents, families, neighbors from Yap and visitors from Yap, speak fluent Yapese language in our home and in the community. Fortunately, I can understand some words and phrases in the Yap language. But I am still learning, hopefully, to speak it with fluency someday. The Yapese language is different from that used for the Carolinian language translation for document translation in the CNMI government and the CNMI national anthem.

My question to this honorable commission members is whether the CNMI Constitution Article 23 is inclusive of my Hofschneider Yap heritage, and does it discriminate me and others under this constitutional provision in our CNMI government? And whether the language provided in Article XXlll, Section 2, "*The dimensions of the flag, the mwáár, the star and latte stone shall be provided by law"*—is enacted or in the process of enacting it, or does the Legislature have a plan to enact to this effect?

I appreciate and thank you in advance for your time and consideration to review my inquiry on this important issue for all of us who live and decide to make the Northern Mariana Islands our home.

Si yu'us ma'ase and respectfully submitted,

Richard Untalan Hofschneider
via email

COUNTRIES

From Page 8

billion people live in and around the areas that border the South China Sea. Several countries have extended coastlines that end at the beginning of the South China Sea, and there are untapped natural resources that several nations want to claim because of the wealth that would be generated from exploiting and extracting natural resources such as natural gas and minerals found under the sea.

Geopolitics and militarism are odd

Oddly enough, Australia and China are significant trading partners, making this arrangement somewhat strange. Australia depends heavily on China for economic growth and China has made it a point to bring Australia into its business orbit.

Yet militarily, the United States has decided to share very sensitive undersea warfare technology with the Australians in exchange to be able to further project influence in the region.

A trilateral nation state arrangement involving technology transfers and building nuclear-powered submarines has never been formally consummated in the way that resembles past arrangements.

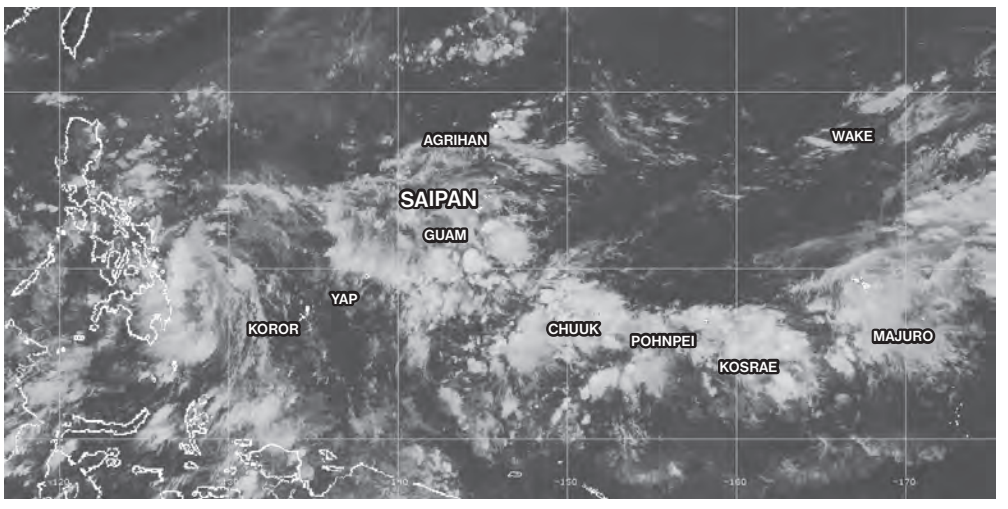
This demonstrates the ongoing commitment that Australia has to America and vice versa.

It may end up being that if the United States wants to be able to continue to project influence throughout the region that it has no choice but to pursue new kinds of security arrangements.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Highs around 86. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Lows around 77. Highs around 86. Chance of showers 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Lows around 77. Highs around 86. Chance of showers 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Lows around 77. Highs around 86. Chance of showers 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Lows around 77. Highs around 86. Chance of showers 40 percent.
86º 77º	86º 77º	87º 77º	86º 77º	86º 77º



PICTURE TIME: 12:19 PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind trough flow is producing morning showers and thunderstorms along with gentle to moderate E/NE winds. Combined seas are between 5 and 7 feet as long-period northwest swell blends with small sources from the east to northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	86 / 79 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	83 / 78 °F
Yap	Light Rain Shower	85 / 77 °F
Chuuk	Thunder	83 / 77 °F
Pohnpei	Light Rain Shower	82 / 75 °F
Kosrae	Light Rain	84 / 78 °F
Majuro	Cloudy	85 / 82 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:46 AM	4:39 PM	-
Tuesday	4:42 AM	5:21 PM	-
Wednesday	5:38 AM	6:03 PM	-
Thursday	6:35 AM	6:46 PM	-
Friday	7:34 AM	7:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	60 / 58 °F
Beijing	Fog	70 / 60 °F
Hong Kong	Thunder in the Vicinity	87 / 81 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	80 / 75 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	61 / 52 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	75 / 63 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	86 / 78 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	74 / 49 °F
Miami	Clear	82 / 78 °F
New York	Clear	68 / 61 °F
Osaka	Sunny	86 / 68 °F
Paris	Light Rain	64 / 50 °F
Busan	Sunny	82 / 72 °F
Rome	Fair	80 / 64 °F
Salem	Clear	71 / 68 °F
San Francisco	Clear	66 / 55 °F
Seoul	Sunny	83 / 66 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	81 / 66 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	67 / 60 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:08 AM	Low Tide	0.92
5:21 AM	High Tide	1.70
12:05 PM	Low Tide	0.09
6:46 PM	High Tide	1.91

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

23 species deemed extinct are eyed for delisting from ESA

WASHINGTON D.C.—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to remove 23 species from the Endangered Species Act, including two from Guam—the Bridled white-eye and little Mariana fruit bat—as they are now considered extinct.

Based on rigorous reviews of the best available science for each of these species, the USFWS has determined these species are extinct, and thus no longer require listing under the ESA.

The purpose of the ESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. For the species proposed for delisting, the protections of the ESA came too late, with most either extinct, functionally extinct, or in steep decline at the timing of listing.

"With climate change and natural area loss pushing more and more species to the brink, now is the time to lift up proactive, collaborative, and innovative efforts to save America's wildlife. The Endangered Species Act has been incredibly effective at preventing species from going extinct and has also inspired action to conserve at-risk species and their habitat before they need to be listed as endangered or threatened," said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. "We will continue to ensure that states, Tribes, private landowners, and federal agencies have the tools they need to conserve America's biodiversity and natural heritage."

These species extinctions highlight the importance of the ESA and efforts to conserve species before declines become irreversible. The circumstances of each also underscore how human activity can drive species decline and extinction, by contributing to habitat loss, overuse and the introduction of invasive species and disease. The growing impacts of climate change are anticipated to further exacerbate these threats and their interactions. They also underscore ongoing conservation challenges of the Service. Almost 3 billion birds have been lost in North America since 1970. These extinctions highlight the need to take action to prevent further losses.

Stemming this extinction crisis is a central component of the Biden-Harris administration's America the Beautiful initiative, a locally led and voluntary, nationwide effort to conserve, connect, and restore 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030. One of the initiative's goals is to enhance wildlife habitat and improve biodiversity—to keep species from reaching the point where they are in danger of extinction or are too far gone to save.

"The Service is actively engaged with diverse partners across the country to prevent further extinctions, recover listed species and prevent the need for federal protections in the first place," said Martha Williams, USFWS principal deputy director. "The Endangered Species Act has been incredibly successful at both preventing extinctions and at inspiring the diverse partnerships needed to meet our growing 21st century conservation challenges."

While protections were provided too late for these 23 species, the ESA has been successful at preventing the extinction of more than 99% of species listed. In total, 54 species have been delisted from the ESA due to recovery, and another 56 species have been downlisted from endangered to threatened. The Service's current workplan includes planned actions that encompass 60 species for potential downlisting or delisting due to successful recovery efforts.

Species being proposed for delisting include the ivory-billed woodpecker, Bachman's warbler, two species of freshwater fishes, eight species of Southeastern freshwater mussels and 11 species from Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

The USFWS seeks information, data, and comments from the public regarding this proposal to remove these 23 species from the ESA and declare them extinct. The proposed rule is available in the Federal Register Reading Room at https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection using the link found under the Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants section.

We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before Dec.r 29, 2021. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal must be received by 11:59pm Eastern Time on the closing date. ***(PR)***

Species proposed for delisting due to extinction:

Species Name	Where Found	When Listed	Last Confirmed Sighting
Bachman's warbler	FL, SC	1967	1988
Bridled white-eye (bird)	GU (Guam)	1984	1983
Flat pigtoe mussel	AL, MS	1987	1984
Green-blossom pearly mussel	TN, VA	1984	1982
Ivory-billed woodpecker	AR	1967	1944
Kauai akialoa (bird)	HI	1967	1969
Kauai nukupuu (bird)	HI	1970	1899
Kauai Wo (bird)	HI	1967	1987
Large Kauai thrush (bird)	HI	1970	1987
Little Mariana fruit bat	GU (Guam)	1984	1968
Maui akepa (bird)	HI	1970	1988
Maui nukupu`u (bird)	HI	1970	1996
Molokai creeper (bird)	HI	1970	1963
Phyllostegia glabra var. lanaiensis (plant)	HI	1991	1914
Po'ouli (bird)	HI	1975	2004
San Marcos gambusia (fish)	TX	1980	1983
Scioto madtom (fish)	OH	1975	1957
Southern acornshell mussel	AL, GA, TN	1993	1973
Stirrupshell mussel	AL, MS	1987	1986
Tubercled-blossom pearly mussel	AL, IL, IN, KY, OH, TN, WV	1976	1969
Turgid-blossom pearly mussel	AL, AR, MO, TN	1976	1972
Upland combshell mussel	AL, GA, TN	1993	mid-1980s
Yellow-blossom pearly mussel	AL, TN	1985	1980s

NEW WAVE DENTAL

Dental Assistant Needed
New (Full-Time)
*applicants with lab skills preferred

$15-25/hr. call 233-3300 for info, or drop off CV at New Wave Dental

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FAMILY SERVICES CASE MANAGER

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021 AT 4:00 PM

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
US PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE FACILITY

NOTICE OF OFFICE RELOCATION

The U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility under the Department of Finance is relocating its office to the 1st floor of the Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru St, Garapan on Monday, October 4th, 2021. Our normal office hours are:

Monday to Friday
7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please call 664-4760/61/62. You can also access forms and documents or Passport Help on our web page at https://finance.gov.mp/passport.php

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on ***Wednesday, October 06, 2021 at 8:30a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes - (from June 11, 2021)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
  • NCEES 2021 Annual Business ZOOM Meeting
VII. Director's Report
  • Financial Report
  • NCARB MBE Committee Member
  • Current Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects Regulations
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  • Update on the Appraisal Regulations Ad Hoc Committee
XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XII. New Business
XIII. Applications for Board's Review
XIV. Miscellaneous Business
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

2021 Toys for Tots Campaign starts in Guam and the CNMI

DEDEDO, Guam—Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz announced Friday the start of the 12th Toys for Tots campaign in Guam and seventh in the CNMI.

Marines from MCB Camp Blaz delivered last week toy collection boxes to participating organizations and businesses. Toy collection will start today, Oct, 4, and end on Dec. 10.

Last year 9,817 toys were collected in Guam, going to children in need and spreading a message of happiness and hope during the holiday season. During the campaign, 3,400 toys were distributed throughout the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Last year, we received overwhelming support from the community for Toys for Tots despite the negative impacts many were feeling due to the pandemic," said Col. Christopher Bopp, the MCB Camp Blaz commanding officer. "The selflessness and kindness of everyone who donated did not go unnoticed. The ultimate success of the program and the children's happiness is dependent upon the strength of our community and the bond we share."

"The Guam Chamber is pleased to partner with Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz in support of the Toys for Tots program for the 12th consecutive year," said Catherine Castro, president of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. "The generous spirit of our people is a testament to the giving culture in the Marianas. Despite the challenges of the pandemic last year, residents gave from their hearts and made a huge impact on many children that will last a lifetime. We are truly grateful for the community's continued support again this year. Families with children in need are encouraged to contact Catholic Social Service and the Salvation Army to sign their children up in time for toy distribution in December."

MCB Camp Blaz will continue to execute the Toys for Tots campaign with strict adherence to all local and national guidelines for COVID-19. All Marines, volunteers and participants of the Toys for Tots program are required to wear face coverings, wash their hands before and after events and practice social distancing. Any Marines or volunteers who feel sick or display any symptoms will not be allowed to participate.

"2020 was a record-breaking year for the program," said Capt. A. J. Ramos, the Toys for Tots lead coordinator for Guam and the CNMI. "The generosity and support we received from the community and sponsors resulted in the collection of 1,700 additional toys [in] Guam, a 21% increase. It's an honor to be a part of such a successful program and help bring smiles to children during the holiday season."

If you would like to participate and donate to Toys for Tots, just drop a newly purchased, unwrapped toy to one of the many businesses or organizations who have volunteered to be drop-off locations. For a complete list of locations on Guam and important dates, visit the Chamber's website at GuamChamber.com.gu, the MCB Camp Blaz Facebook page, @MCBcampblaz, or Instagram page, @mcbcampblaz.

For a list of locations on Saipan, contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150.

For families in need and would like to request toys, contact either the Salvation Army at (671) 477-9872 or Catholic Social Services at (671) 635-1442.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a not-for-profit charity with a 74-year history. Last year the Marine Toys for Tots Program fulfilled the holiday hopes and dreams of 7.3 million less fortunate children in over 800 communities nationwide by distributing 19 million toys. Since 1947 over 272 million children have been assisted and 604 million toys distributed.

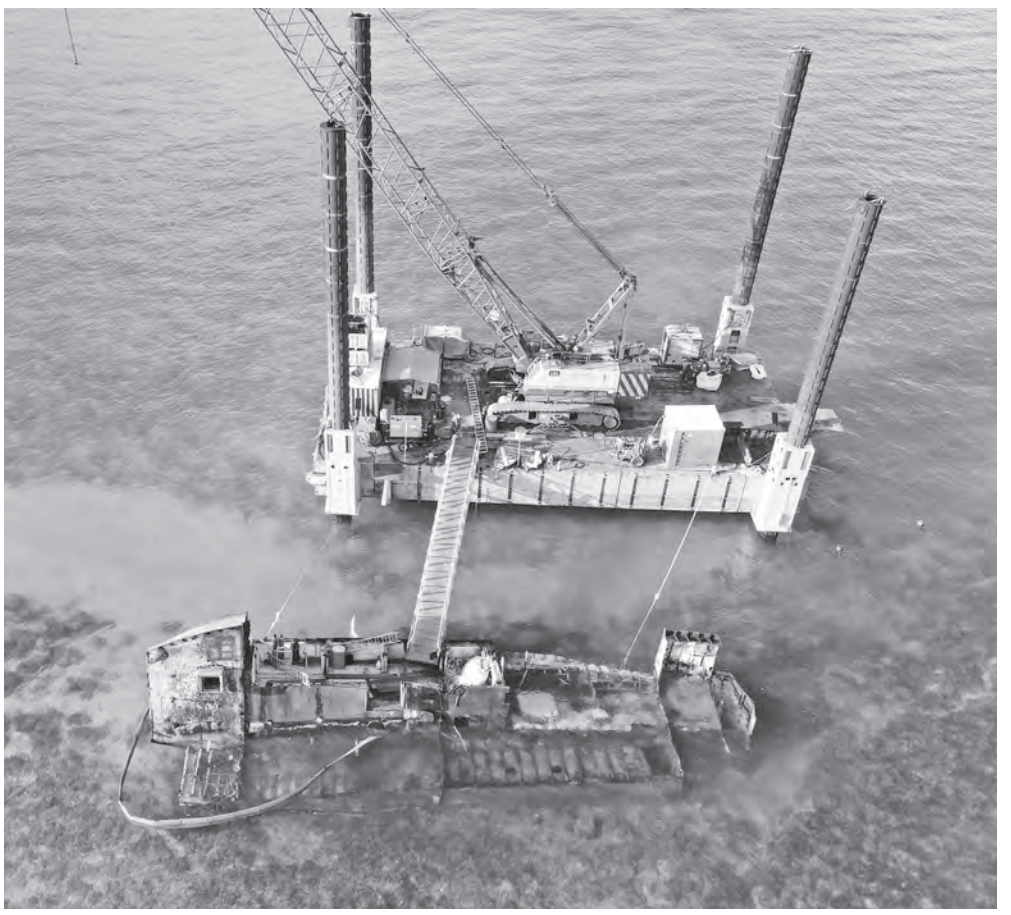
For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org. ***(PR)***

PCRP completes removal of derelict vessel from Saipan Lagoon

Removing the grounded vessel took two months and succeeded in eliminating approximately 90 tons of scrap steel and 75 gallons of fuel from the lagoon environment.

Pacific Coastal Research & Planning, a Saipan-based environmental non-profit organization, announced Friday the successful completion of the project to remove the derelict fishing vessel, *Lady Carolina,* from the Saipan Lagoon.

The *Lady Carolina* was an 83-foot, 54-ton, steel-hulled fishing vessel that had been grounded in a shallow, highly visible area of the Saipan Lagoon since it broke free of its mooring during the devastating passing of category 4 Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015. The vessel was further damaged during Typhoon Yutu in 2018. This removal project was funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



This file photo show work being done to salvage the derelict *Lady Carolina*. Photo taken by licensed commercial drone pilot BJ Eddy. Check out his YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/mydiGis7xwY.
BJ EDDY

The removal activity was conducted by Smithbridge Guam with support from Tano Group, Inc. and Deep Blue LLC. Johnston Applied Marine Sciences and Koa Consulting provided environmental monitoring and compliance support to the project. This project also received continuous support from local government agencies, including the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resources Management and Division of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and DLNR-Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The removal commenced on May 24, 2021, with the mobilization of the Smithbridge crane and jackup barge out to the wreck site. Smithbridge and Tano crew members worked to cut the *Lady Carolina* wreck into smaller pieces that were then lifted by the crane onto a waiting transport vessel. The pieces were then transported to Saipan, where Deep Blue LLC secured the pieces and took them to their construction yard for further breakdown, processing, and disposal.

Community members interested in viewing a progression story map of the Lady Carolina's removal can do so at PCRP's website: https://www.pacificcrp.org/lady_carolina

In total, Deep Blue LLC project managers recorded and disposed of: 87.9 tons (+/- 5%) of metal scrap (black iron, stainless steel, and some copper/aluminum), 864 cubic feet of common waste (wood, plastic, etc.), and 980 cubic feet of other waste (rigid foam insulation). In addition, the Smithbridge-Tano crew recovered approximately 650 gallons of rainwater mixed with diesel and other residual fuels from inside three separate previously sealed and elevated holds. All oily water was immediately contained and transferred into 13 55-gallon drums before being transported back to Saipan and disposed of at a BECQ-permitted used oil burning facility. The discovery of this fuel/lubricant further justifies the need for this removal project before the *Lady Carolina* was further damaged and the contaminants were released into the surrounding environment.

In order to minimize the negative effects of the removal process on the local environment, before the removal project began the marine biologist team under JAMS translocated approximately 150 coral colonies from the removal project area and secured them to a temporary staging area nearby. Following the demobilization of the Smithbridge equipment, JAMS reattached these coral colonies to the reef substrate at the removal site. By returning these corals to the vessel "scar," we hope to help jumpstart the recovery process for the reef habitat damaged by the vessel grounding. In addition, JAMS removed approximately 400 lbs of small metal, plastic, and glass debris from the removal site.

Saipan-based environmental consulting company Koa Consulting was contracted to implement the "Lady Carolina Removal Water Quality Monitoring Plan/Program" as required by the Division of Environmental Quality to meet the U.S. Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification Requirements. This included daily routine and response monitoring of the entire water column at multiple locations surrounding the project sight using visual and real-time multi-parameter water quality data logging instrumentation (YSI model Pro DSS) to assess the following: pH, turbidity, Total Suspended Solids, hydrocarbons (e.g. fuel, oil, lubricants), tannins and paint, and debris. As reported by Koa Consulting, none of the field measured water quality parameters exceeded allowable variances throughout the duration of the project.

Upon the completion of this project, Mark Manuel, NOAA Marine Debris Program Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator released the following statement: "The NOAA Marine Debris Program is very proud to support the removal of the *Lady Carolina*. It has continued to serve as an unfortunate reminder of the destruction of Typhoon Soudelor and Typhoon Yutu, while posing a hazard to waterways, wildlife, and community members. Removing abandoned and derelict vessels such as this are important for the preservation of our ecological, cultural, and economic resources. Keeping CNMI free from the impacts of marine debris is important, and we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with local partners to address this issue."

Removing the grounded vessel will prevent further environmental impacts to sensitive habitat, such as coral reefs, and endangered species. The *Lady Carolina* was one of many abandoned and derelict vessels in the CNMI. ADVs can obstruct navigational channels, damage ecosystems, and diminish the recreational value of the surrounding areas. ADVs are difficult and expensive to remove and therefore may persist for years, breaking apart and creating widespread debris fields that threaten marine and coastal environments. Most of the ADVs in the CNMI, including the *Lady Carolina*, are a result of typhoons. PCRP would like to remind boat owners in the CNMI to practice storm preparedness and properly secure vessels and equipment in order to prevent additional ADVs and marine debris.

For more information on the removal of the Lady Carolina and project activities, visit PCRP's website at pacificcrp.org or contact Becky Skeele, executive director of Pacific Coastal Research & Planning, at becky.skeele@pacificcrp.org. ***(PR)***

2 local youth top national art contest

The winning artwork of two Northern Marianas students are being featured in NOAA's 2022 Marine Debris Calendar, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's e-newsletter over the weekend.

The newsletter states that the art of eighth grader Jeewoo S. graces the calendar cover; while the month of February features a piece by fifth grader Daniel N.

"The work of the two Marianas students bested hundreds of entries from across the country to be selected for publication," it said.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program annual art contest asks youth from kindergarten through eighth grade to describe the impact of man-made debris on the marine environment and local solutions to the problem.

"Great work, Jeewoo and Daniel. Thank you for reminding us we are all responsible for the health of the ocean," the newsletter states. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Business

BOG Chalan Piao to close

» Bank streamlines Saipan operations to Garapan branch

HÅGATNA, Guam—After almost 10 years of serving Saipan's southern region, Bank of Guam announced Friday that it will be officially closing its Chalan Piao location on Dec. 31, 2021, streamlining operations under its Garapan branch.

Since the beginning of 2021, the bank has embarked on a transformative journey coined "The Start of Something New," promising to integrate a legacy of personalized services with leading-edge technologies that deliver safe, secure, and convenient access right to the hands of their customers.

In August, the bank unveiled its new website, revealing a fresh, modern look using refreshed brand elements designed to complement its digital identity and accompanying technology.

In July, Bank of Guam announced the rebrand of their California region branch to TASI Bank, a division of Bank of Guam, refining their business strategy to focus primarily on business-to-business financial services.

"Despite the undeniable growth in digital banking solutions, our customers are familia, and while the closure of our Chalan Piao location may seem bittersweet, these are exciting times and we invite all our customers along with us on the next phase of our journey, each step closer to 'The Start of Something New,'" said Joaquin P. LG. Cook, BOG's president and chief executive officer.

The bank promises to continue its forward-looking journey with more major announcements scheduled to rollout throughout the rest of the year leading up to its 50th anniversary in 2022. ***(PR)***

Merck says COVID-19 pill cuts risk of death, hospitalization

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a potential leap forward in the global fight against the pandemic, drugmaker Merck said Friday that its experimental pill for people sick with COVID-19 reduced hospitalizations and deaths by half.

If cleared by regulators, it would be the first pill shown to treat COVID-19, adding a whole new, easy-to-use weapon to an arsenal that already includes the vaccine.

The company said it will soon ask health officials in the U.S. and around the world to authorize the pill's use. A decision from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could come within weeks after that, and the drug, if it gets the OK, could be distributed quickly soon afterward.

All other COVID-19 treatments now authorized in the U.S. require an IV or injection. A pill taken at home, by contrast, would ease pressure on hospitals and could also help curb outbreaks in poorer and more remote corners of the world that don't have access to the more expensive infusion therapies.

"This would allow us to treat many more people much more quickly and, we trust, much less expensively," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University who was not involved in the research.

Merck and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics said early results showed patients who received the drug, molnupiravir, within five days of COVID-19 symptoms had about half the rate of hospitalization and death as those who received a dummy pill.

The study tracked 775 adults with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who were considered high risk for severe disease because of health problems such as obesity, diabetes or heart disease. The results have not been reviewed by outside experts, the usual procedure for vetting new medical research.

This undated image provided by Merck & Co. shows their new antiviral medication.

AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trump asks US judge to force Twitter to restore his account

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President Donald Trump has asked a federal judge in Florida to force Twitter to restore his account, which the company suspended in January following the deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol. Trump's attorneys on Friday filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Miami seeking a preliminary injunction against Twitter and its CEO, Jack Dorsey. They argue that Twitter is censoring Trump in violation of his First Amendment rights, according to the motion. Twitter declined to comment Saturday on Trump's filing.

Dubai's Expo 2020 reveals 3 worker deaths from COVID-19

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Dubai's Expo 2020 acknowledged for the first time on Sunday that three workers had died from the coronavirus over the course of building the world's fair during the pandemic, as the prestigious event draws scrutiny of labor conditions in the United Arab Emirates. When asked at a press conference about deaths among Expo's vast foreign labor force, spokesperson Sconaid McGeachin said three workers had died from the virus in addition to three from construction accidents, without specifying when. She declined to describe the extent of the coronavirus outbreak among workers on site. McGeachin again claimed the information about worker casualties was previously available, without elaborating.

American, other airlines will require employee vaccinations

American Airlines, Alaska Airlines and JetBlue are joining United Airlines in requiring employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19, as the Biden administration steps up pressure on major U.S. carriers to require the shots. The airlines provide special flights, cargo hauling and other services for the government. The companies say that makes them government contractors who are covered by President Joe Biden's order directing contractors to require that employees be vaccinated. American Airlines CEO Doug Parker told employees late Friday that the airline is still working on details, but "it is clear that team members who choose to remain unvaccinated will not be able to work at American Airlines." ***(AP)***

Nation

20 Alaska hospitals allowed to ration care amid COVID spike

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Alaska on Saturday activated emergency crisis protocols that allow 20 medical facilities to ration care if needed as the state recorded the nation's worst COVID-19 diagnosis rates in recent days, straining the state's limited health care system.

The declaration covers three facilities that had already announced emergency protocols, including the state's largest hospital, Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. The state's declaration also includes the other two hospitals in Anchorage and facilities across the nation's largest but sparsely populated state.

"Today's action recognizes that Alaska has an interconnected and interdependent health care system, requiring the need for activation of the state's decision-making framework. That framework includes a progression of conventional, contingency and crisis standards," the state health department said in a statement announcing the activation.

"I want to stress that our health care facilities in Alaska remain open and able to care for patients. Alaskans who need medical care should not delay seeking it, even during these difficult times," said Adam Crum, the state's health commissioner.

Factors that led the state to activate the crisis of care standards include scarce medical resources at some facilities, limited staff and difficulty transferring patients because of limited bed availability. Other factors include limited renal replacement therapy and oxygen supplies.

According to data collected by Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, one in every 84 people in Alaska was diagnosed with COVID-19 from Sept. 22 to Sept. 29. The next highest rate was one in every 164 people in West Virginia.

Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, which was covered by the state's announcement, on Friday activated its own policy because of a shortage of beds, staff and monoclonal antibody treatments, along with the inability to transfer patients.

"The move to Crisis Standards of Care is not something we take lightly," Fairbanks Chief Medical Officer Dr. Angelique Ramirez said in a statement. "This is in response to a very serious surge of COVID in our community."

The move came the same day the state reported 1,044 new cases, 108 of them in the Fairbanks area. The hospital says 35% of its patients on Saturday were being treated for COVID-19.

Since March 2020, there have been 110,850 total COVID-19 cases in Alaska, which has a population of about 731,000. More than 24,000 new cases were reported in September as the delta variant drove a spike in cases in Alaska, which has never had a statewide mask mandate.

The state health department said in all, 2,432 people have been hospitalized, and 557 Alaska residents have died.

ACROSS THE NATION

Helicopter and plane collide midair in Arizona; 2 killed

CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP)—A helicopter and a single-engine plane collided in midair Friday near a suburban Phoenix airport, sending the helicopter crashing into a field and killing both people on board. The plane landed safely, and the flight instructor and a student inside were not hurt. The collision happened in the city of Chandler near its municipal airport, said police Sgt. Jason McClimans. He said no one on the ground was hurt but the airport would remain closed for several hours. The Chandler Fire Department received reports of a fire in a brush field next to the airport shortly before 8 a.m. Crews found a large plume of smoke and the wreckage of the helicopter on fire but were able to extinguish it relatively quickly, fire officials said.

Sheriff: Man attacks, kills 2 coworkers; 3rd victim critical

An electrician who got in an angry dispute with a supervisor attacked his colleagues at the Florida home they shared on a temporary work project, killing two Saturday and injuring a third who wasn't expected to survive, a sheriff said. Electrician Shun Runyon and his coworkers were living in Davenport while they worked temporarily at a supermarket for a Pennsylvania electric company. The 39-year-old got into the argument with his supervisor Friday, punching the man and fleeing the job site, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said during a news conference. Runyon returned to the home where he and seven coworkers and their families were living and began attacking them with a knife and baseball bat, beating one man to death while he slept, Judd said. A second victim was found dead on the front porch and a third victim was beaten so badly he was hospitalized in extremely critical condition and was "not expected to survive," the sheriff said. ***(AP)***

Authorities: Body of missing Florida college student found

MIAMI (AP)—Authorities say they have found the body of a missing Florida college student who disappeared a week ago. A maintenance worker who entered her apartment unauthorized the day she disappeared and later killed himself is the prime suspect. Orange County Sheriff John Mina said Saturday that authorities found Miya Marcano's body in a wooded area near an apartment building. Authorities said the 19-year-old vanished on the same day a maintenance man improperly used a master key to enter her apartment. Her family reported her missing after she missed a flight home to South Florida on Sept. 24. The sheriff previously said Armando Caballero, a maintenance worker at the apartment complex where Marcano lived and worked, is considered the "prime suspect." Caballero, 27, apparently killed himself; his body was found three days after Marcano was last seen.

Powerball jackpot is biggest lottery prize in over 8 months

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The biggest lottery prize in more than eight months is up for grabs in Saturday night's Powerball drawing. The winning numbers are 28, 38, 42, 47 and 52. The Powerball is 1. The Powerball jackpot has slowly climbed to an estimated $635 million thanks to 39 consecutive drawings without a grand prize winner, a record streak for the game dating back to June 5. There hasn't been a bigger Powerball jackpot since a $731.1 million prize was won on Jan. 20. Saturday's grand prize would be the 10th largest U.S. lottery jackpot ever won. Since Aug. 23, Powerball drawings have been held three times a week to increase interest and grow prizes more quickly. Drawings are held each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 10:59 p.m. EDT. One thing that hasn't changed, though, are the long odds of winning the jackpot—one in 292.2 million.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Emergency medicine physician shares severe weather season tips for health, wellness

By CYNTHIA WEISS
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

The hurricane season is underway. That means the threat of severe weather is ever-present through Nov. 30. This threat includes high winds, torrential rains, flooding and tornadoes. Emergency medicine experts say now is the time to prepare to ensure you and your family remain safe during and after a storm.

"Preparation and planning are key," says Dr. Michael Boniface, an emergency medicine physician at Mayo Clinic.

He offers these reminders to ensure your safety and well-being:

PREPARE FOR SEVERAL DAYS

"The rule of thumb is to look at your household members, pets included, and know what you will need for at least 72 hours to keep everyone safe, nourished and hydrated. Have it ready at a moment's notice," says Dr. Boniface. "Evacuation may not always be necessary but being prepared will save you critical time when you need to load up and head out at short notice."

HAVE A READY BAG

Dr. Boniface suggests each family member, including four-legged family members, have a "ready bag" that includes supplies and necessities, such as batteries, flashlights, clothes, food and bottled water. Don't forget health and first-aid items.

"When putting together your ready bag or hurricane box, everybody knows to bring adequate clothing, food and water, but what a lot of people don't realize is that you need to bring all the medications that you take on a regular basis for yourself, your family members and your pets," says Dr. Boniface.

Dr. Boniface recommends having a minimum of three days' worth, but ideally bring a week's worth of medications. Although many pharmacies can provide emergency refills for a short period of time for many medications without a doctor's authorization, it's better to pack what you need. "And I recommend that you keep a list of all medications, including dosage and instructions with you just in case."

VENTILATE WELL

One of the most common consequences of a natural disaster, whether it's a hurricane, tornado or flood, is the loss of electricity. Portable generators are a great option, but Dr. Boniface reminds that precautions need to be taken when operating a portable generator to eliminate the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

"Generators are extremely useful," says Dr. Boniface. "However, some generators have older, incomplete combustion, which will result in carbon monoxide and other dangerous exhaust. They should only be operated outside in well-ventilated areas because we do see an increase in incidents of carbon monoxide exposure during and after storms."

Symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure can be subtle and gradually progress so you don't know there's a problem until it's too late, Dr. Boniface adds. Carbon monoxide exposure can result in nausea, headaches, fatigue, sleepiness and death.

"In particular, if you notice that more than one household member—and even your pets—are experiencing unusual symptoms, you need to get to a safe, well-ventilated space and call emergency services to come investigate," Dr. Boniface says.

Also, never operate a grill inside your house or another poorly ventilated area. "In addition to the risk of carbon monoxide and other fume exposures with grilling, there is an increased risk of burns. I recommend if you are going to grill, use an electric starter," says Dr. Boniface.

PRACTICE WATER SAFETY

Having a clean water supply is important for hydration and hygiene during a storm. While many people stock up on bottles or jugs, others may fill up bathtubs or buckets, which Dr. Boniface says poses a drowning risk for children and pets, as does water that may result from severe weather.

"Floodwaters are very dangerous, and germs can also lurk in standing water. Use common sense and be mindful of your children, especially around water," says Dr. Boniface. "With young children, it only takes an instant—and it only takes a couple inches of water. The best advice I can give you is if your children are going to be around water, stay with them, stay focused and have a plan."

AVOID TEMPTATION AND WEAR APPROPRIATE GEAR

During severe weather, it can be exciting to admire Mother Nature and head outside to catch a glimpse of lightening or a wind funnel. Dr. Boniface says it's more important to shelter in place.

"You have to resist the temptation to go explore, especially when it's dark," says Dr. Boniface.

And when it's time to clean up, proper clothing and footwear are a must, he says.

Dr. Boniface says the most common injuries he sees after a natural disaster are related to accidents that could have been avoided, such as:

- Not wearing appropriate shoes and stepping on a sharp object.
- Falls from ladders or roofs.
- Chainsaw injuries from clearing brush, fallen trees or debris.

"It's important to avoid do-it-yourself projects, unless you are skilled with the equipment," Dr. Boniface says. "But if you must do it yourself, make sure that you're doing it safely. Wear appropriate clothing and protection, don't climb higher up on a tree than you're comfortable with, and in particular if you're using a ladder, always maintain three points of contact at all times—two feet and one hand, two hands one foot."

©2021 Mayo Clinic News Network. Visit newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

These aerial drone file photo show the extent of the destruction on Saipan in the wake of Super Typjoon Yutu, which hit Saipan and Tinian late Oct. 24 and early Oct. 25, 2018.

RAYMOND ZAPANTA

COVID-19 vaccine for younger kids a step closer

By DEB BALZER
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

COVID-19 vaccination for children under 12 is one step closer to reality.

Pfizer announced that it submitted data of their phase 2 and phase 3 trial of their COVID-19 in children ages 5-11 to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A formal submission to request emergency use authorization (EUA) of the company's COVID-19 vaccine in children in this age group is expected in the coming weeks.

The FDA will need to analyze data before a decision is made.

"There is thinking we will see an emergency use authorization approval for children ages 5 to 11 years old before Halloween," says Dr. Gregory Poland, an infectious diseases expert and head of Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group

"We already have the emergency use authorization for children 12 and above. The vaccine will be a dose of Pfizer vaccine that is 10 micrograms rather than the 30 micrograms that many adults have gotten. That's one-third of the adult dose." Like other Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines, it will be a two-dose series, and it will be most effective 14 days after second dose

Dr. Poland says it's not a surprise that those much lower doses generate antibody responses equal to people in that 12- to 18-year-old age group.

"Now what they're working on is a vaccine for those 6 months to 4 years old who will get one-tenth of the adult dose. Instead of 30 micrograms, they'll get 3 micrograms," says Dr. Poland. "And those early studies show it's safe, and it's effective."

Dr. Poland says besides vaccinations, it's important to follow other safety protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections:

- Wear masks in public spaces.
- Practice good hand hygiene.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well.

Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding, along with guidelines and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date.

©2021 Mayo Clinic News Network. Visit newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Life & Style

Scarlett Johansson, Disney settle lawsuit over 'Black Widow'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Dre, Snoop, Eminem, Blige, Lamar to perform at Super Bowl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige and Kendrick Lamar will perform for the first time on stage together at the Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show. The NFL, Pepsi and Roc Nation announced Thursday that the five music icons will perform on Feb. 13 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California. Dre, Snoop Dogg and Lamar are Southern California natives. Dre emerged from the West Coast gangster rap scene alongside Eazy-E and Ice Cube to help form the group N.W.A., which made a major mark in the hip-hop culture and music industry with controversial lyrics in the late 1980s. Dre is responsible for bringing forth rap stars such as Snoop Dogg, Eminem, 50 Cent and Lamar. Dre also produced Blige's No. 1 hit song "Family Affair." "The opportunity to perform at the Super Bowl Halftime show, and to do it in my own backyard, will be one of the biggest thrills of my career," Dre said in a statement. The seven-time Grammy winner added that their halftime performance will be an "unforgettable cultural moment."

Billy Strings wins bluegrass entertainer of the year award

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Grammy-winning bluegrass musician Billy Strings won entertainer of the year at the genre's top awards show, a major feat for the 28-year-old guitarist who beat out veteran performers. The International Bluegrass Music Association's Bluegrass Music Awards were handed out Thursday in Raleigh, North Carolina, where Strings was also named guitar player of the year. Nominees for entertainer of the year included Balsam Range, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Del McCoury Band and The Po' Ramblin' Boys. Strings, originally from Michigan, won a Grammy Award for his 2019 album "Home," and just released his second record for Rounder Records, an acoustic album called "Renewal." Also picking up multiple awards was Appalachian Road Show, which won best new artist and instrumental group of the year. Sister Sadie won vocal group of the year, song of the year went to Balsam Range for "Richest Man" and album of the year was "Industrial Strength Bluegrass: Southwestern Ohio's Musical Legacy."

UK's Princess Beatrice names first child Sienna Elizabeth

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Princess Beatrice and her husband Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi have named their newborn daughter Sienna Elizabeth. In a tweet Friday, Beatrice revealed the name—in full, Sienna Elizabeth Mapelli Mozzi—alongside a picture of the newborn's footprints. Sienna Elizabeth is Queen Elizabeth II's 12th great-grandchild. She was born on Sept. 18 at London's Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, weighing in at 6 pounds and 2 ounces (2.78 kilos). Beatrice, 33, is already stepmother to Mapelli's son Christopher Wolf, who is known as Wolfie, from a previous relationship. "We are all doing well and Wolfie is the best big brother to Sienna," Beatrice said. Beatrice is 10th in the line of succession to the British throne, the eldest daughter of Prince Andrew and his ex-wife, Sarah, Duchess of York.

Pat Robertson steps down as host of long-running '700 Club'

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Pat Robertson, who turned a tiny Virginia television station into a global religious broadcasting network, is stepping down after a half-century running the "700 Club" on daily TV, the Christian Broadcasting Network announced on Friday. Robertson, 91, said in a statement that he hosted the network's flagship program for the last time on Friday, and that his son Gordon Robertson will take over the weekday show starting Monday. "I will no longer be the host of the '700 Club,'" Robertson said on the show Friday, although he vowed to return from time to time, if he's had a "revelation" he needs to share. "I thank God for everyone that's been involved. And I want to thank all of you." Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network started airing on Oct. 1, 1961 after he bought a bankrupt UHF television station in Portsmouth, Virginia. The "700 Club" began production in 1966.

Ani DiFranco to be honored at John Lennon benefit show

NEW YORK (AP)—When she was 9 years old, singer Ani DiFranco's guitar teacher gave her a Beatles songbook. She now has reason to consult it again. A group that holds a John Lennon benefit concert has selected DiFranco for its John Lennon Real Love Award, and she'll perform his music at the tribute on Dec. 10 in New York City. DiFranco and her teacher, Michael Meldrum, would use the book to learn the songs together. "It's a very dear, fond memory of mine," DiFranco said. "It's been a long road since then. It's cool to be wrapping around full circle to a John Lennon tribute, to be tasked with learning some John Lennon songs."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scarlett Johansson and the Walt Disney Co. on Thursday settled her lawsuit over the streaming release of "Black Widow," bringing a swift end to what had begun as the first major fight between a studio and star over recent changes in rollout plans for films.

Johansson filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court two months ago, saying the streaming release of the Marvel movie breached her contract and deprived her of potential earnings.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the two sides released a joint statement in which they pledged to continue working together.

"I am happy to have resolved our differences with Disney," said Johansson, who has played Natasha Romanoff aka Black Widow, in nine movies going back to 2010's "Iron Man 2." "I'm incredibly proud of the work we've done together over the years and have greatly enjoyed my creative relationship with the team. I look forward to continuing our collaboration."

Alan Bergman, chairman of Disney Studios Content, said he is "pleased that we have been able to come to a mutual agreement."

Johansson

"We appreciate her contributions to the Marvel Cinematic Universe and look forward to working together on a number of upcoming projects," Bergman said.

The lawsuit said Johansson's contract guaranteed an exclusive theatrical release, with her potential earnings tied to the box office performance of the film.

But as it has with other recent releases since the coronavirus pandemic began, Disney released the film simultaneously in theaters and through its streaming service Disney+ for a $30 rental.

The rhetoric of the lawsuit and Disney's response suggested a long and ugly battle was ahead.

"In the months leading up to this lawsuit, Ms. Johansson gave Disney and Marvel every opportunity to right their wrong and make good on Marvel's promise," the lawsuit said. "Disney intentionally induced Marvel's breach of the Agreement, without justification, in order to prevent Ms. Johansson from realizing the full benefit of her bargain with Marvel."

Disney at the time said the lawsuit had "no merit whatsoever," adding that it was "especially sad and distressing in its callous disregard for the horrific and prolonged global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Disney said the changed release plan "significantly enhanced her ability to earn additional compensation on top of the $20M she has received to date."

Delayed more than a year because of COVID-19, "Black Widow" debuted to a what was then a pandemic-best of $80 million in North America and $78 million from international theaters on July 9. But theatrical grosses declined sharply after that.

Britney's father is out, but scrutiny of him just beginning

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears and her attorney successfully drove her father from the conservatorship that has run the singer's life and controlled her money, but they say they are not done scrutinizing him and the actions he took over the past 13 years.

Spears

After a Los Angeles Superior Court judge suspended James Spears as conservator, attorney Mathew Rosengart said his legal team would perform a "top-to-bottom" examination of his behavior now that they have access to years of books and records. Some allegations, he added, could bring a "hard look" from law enforcement.

"Jamie Spears and others are going to face even more serious ramifications for his misconduct," Rosengart said Wednesday outside court.

But legal acts may pose problems too. Experts say some of the allegations that have emerged have exposed the shortcomings of the conservatorship system, which gives conservators vast control over people deemed mentally incapable of making major life decisions, as Britney Spears was found to be in 2008.

"There are safeguards in place," said Sarah Wentz, a probate attorney who works on many conservatorship cases. "I think the failings in this case show us where they can be manipulated. I am disappointed in our system."

Few of the allegations against James Spears, which range from mismanagement of funds to fierce control of his daughter's every move, have been publicly proven. His attorneys say they range from unsubstantiated to impossible, and that he only ever acted in her best interest.

Abuse, alcohol cloud victim's perception

DEAR ABBY: For the last three years, I was in an emotionally and physically abusive relationship. I finally found the courage to leave. Throughout the time I was with my ex, I self-medicated with alcohol because I felt ugly and unloved. One day, while I was out and intoxicated, I created an online profile on a dating app. Three days later, I went on a date that went absolutely great. We spent the entire weekend together and have seen each other for the last three months since then.

My problem is I still have feelings for my abusive ex. The man I am currently seeing is loving and caring. He already talks about marriage and giving me a life I deserve. At the beginning, I was very into him, but maybe now I'm realizing he was a rebound because, as time passes, I do not share the same feelings he does. I am worried I will lose this man and perhaps a great life over someone who caused me so much pain and grief. Please help.

STUCK IN MY PAST

DEAR STUCK: Although you may be tempted in that direction, the one thing you do NOT need is to return to your prior toxic relationship. Before you commit to another relationship, you must resolve your alcohol problem. The next item on your agenda should be getting reacquainted with the worthwhile person that YOU are.

Although your new boyfriend seems loving and caring, neither of you knows the other well enough after only three months to make a well-reasoned lifetime commitment. It shows insight that you are thinking this may be a rebound relationship rather than the real thing. Listen to your intuition. It is telling you something important, so slow down!

■ ■ ■ ■

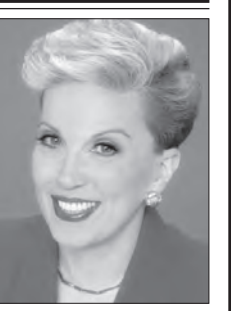
DEAR ABBY: Must an engagement ring be "new"? My mother died at the age of 60 and left her engagement ring to me. My father then married a younger woman. They had one daughter, who subsequently has had children of her own. I never married, and have reached an age where it's not likely I will, and I still have the ring. I could have the stone reset for myself, but I never cared much for jewelry, and I wouldn't feel right selling it.

I'm considering giving it to the daughter (my half-sister) so one of her descendants could use it for its intended purpose. Would a potential fiancee consider it an insult to be receiving a "used" engagement ring, or be honored to be welcomed into the family with an heirloom? (We should consider that the original wearer is technically not a blood relation, so it's possibly not their "family" heirloom.)

PASSING IT ON IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR PASSING IT: I can't speak for all young women, but many would recognize the honor of being offered a keepsake/heirloom such as your mother's ring. If they didn't like the style, they, too, could decide whether to have the stone reset into something more to their liking. I think your idea of offering it to your half-sister is generous and beautiful. YOU are a gem.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

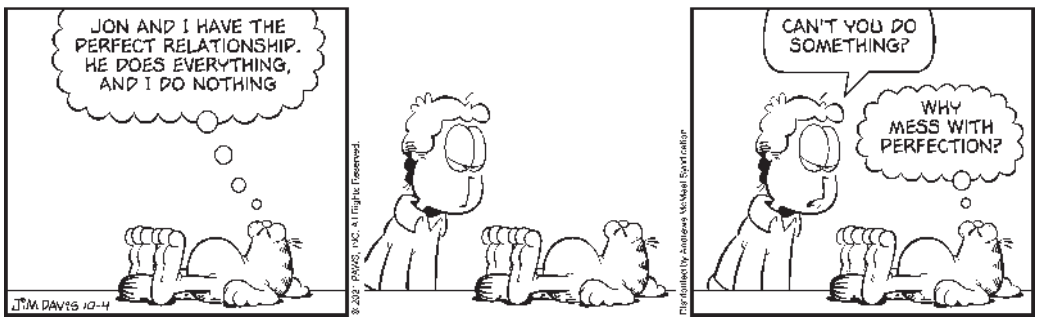
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


JON AND I HAVE THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP. HE DOES EVERYTHING, AND I DO NOTHING
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?
WHY MESS WITH PERFECTION?

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW WAS THE DOCTOR?
NOT GREAT.
HE SAID I NEED TO LIMIT MYSELF TO TWO CUPS OF COFFEE A DAY.
SO, GUESS WHAT I GOT.
A NEW DOCTOR?
A NEW MUG!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR TEAM MADE IT INTO THE PLAYOFFS.
YEAH, THE NEW COACH REALLY SEEMS TO KNOW HOW TO MOTIVATE THE PLAYERS.
BUT I'M SURPRISED THE COMMISSIONER IS ALLOWING HIM TO USE THE CATTLE PROD
WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN LESS RUNNING ERRORS!
BZZZ~ OW!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

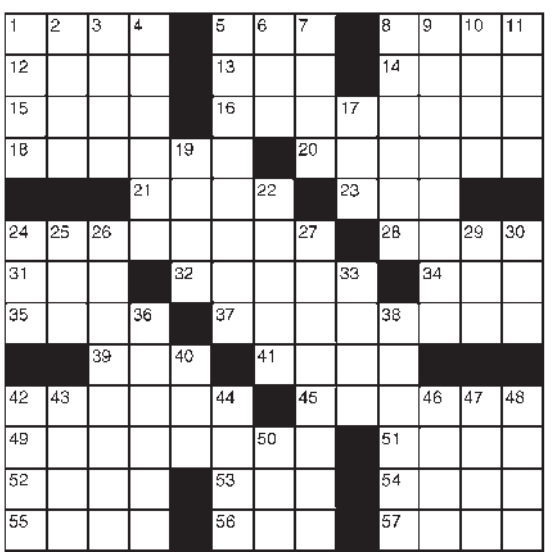
1 Bummer
5 Purse
8 Slightly open
12 July's stone
13 Lawyers' org.
14 Judicial garb
15 Reunion attendee
16 U.S. region with abandoned factories
18 Damp cleaner
20 Exhausted
21 Jai —
23 Season opener?
24 Trash cans
28 Taxpayer IDs
31 Singer DiFranco
32 Actress Mac-Dowell
34 Snip
35 At hand
37 Keeps up
39 — Majesty
41 Undo a dele
42 Amount consumed
45 Honor
49 Patron
51 Pond growth
52 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
53 Director Brooks
54 Applaud
55 Must have
56 Whatever
57 Sneakers brand

DOWN

1 Sketch
2 Hold sway
3 Border on
4 Avid exerciser
5 Haggles
6 Dhabi preceder
7 React in horror
8 Garden shelters
9 "Home Alone" actor
10 Competent
11 On pension (Abbr.)
17 Pinnacle
19 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
22 River of Pakistan
24 Author Brown
25 Half of bi-
26 Be a tourist
27 Sororal
29 Cloister resident
30 Map lines (Abbr.)
33 Summers in Paris
36 Passionate
38 Assault
40 "King Kong" studio
42 Optimist's credo
43 Undraped
44 Austen heroine
46 "Legally Blonde" role
47 "Zounds!"
48 Atlas pages
50 Still, in verse

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 10/04



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ella Balinska, 25; Alicia Silverstone, 45; Liev Schreiber, 54; Susan Sarandon, 75.

Happy Birthday: Leave nothing to chance. Use your intellect, line things up and finish what you start. Take the initiative, and you will bring about the changes that will make your life easier to navigate. Your openness when dealing with people you encounter will be refreshing and inspire others to pitch in and help you reach your destination of choice. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 22, 26, 38, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make positive changes to how you live, handle your finances and get along with loved ones. It's essential to talk matters through and make decisions that are fair and agreed upon by all parties involved. Keep your life simple and moderate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't limit what you can do by being part of the problem instead of the solution. Do what's best for everyone, not just yourself. Keep things in perspective, and be open to suggestions. Take care of unfinished business. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Live and learn. Ask questions to find out where you stand and what you can do to get ahead. Learn new skills to add to your resume, and market yourself to fit what's trending. Focus on personal growth. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stop thinking about how you want things to be, and start making the changes that will get you closer to your objective. Refuse to let someone make decisions for you. Socialize, stay active and strive to be your best. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Discuss your plans with someone who can offer expert advice. Finding out what's possible and what isn't before you dive into something will help you eliminate loss or failure. Having a well-thought-out plan in place will ease your mind. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pay attention to the way you present yourself to others, and you'll receive a compliment that gives you the boost you need to forge ahead with confidence. A romantic encounter will change the way you view a friend or peer. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stand up and be counted, and make a difference. Follow the path that encourages you to do what brings you joy and makes you want to work harder. A creative outlet will prompt you to try something new and exciting. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Inconsistency will drag you down and hold you back. Make up your mind, then follow through. Use your imagination, and you'll discover new ways to overcome pending problems. Be the one to make a difference. Make a move and do your part. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Refuse to let sentimentality stand between you and what you want. Stay focused on what's important to you, and make headway in a field that you feel is a good fit. Refuse to let anyone sidetrack you or stand in your way. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your money in a safe place, and don't let anyone persuade you to make a hefty donation. Trust in yourself and what you know, not what someone tries to convince you to believe. Stick to your code of ethics. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Resolve money matters, and opportunities will unfold if you are realistic and moderate in how you approach learning, work and spending habits. Refuse to let the changes others make influence you to make a poor decision. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotions will skyrocket, and unexpected changes will take place. Before you let worry and anxiety take over, look for the positive in whatever situation you face, and you'll find the silver lining that leads to better days ahead. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, outspoken and optimistic. You are determined and persuasive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			9		2			1
	9	8		3		4	6	
	4						9	
6			5		9			4
	1						7	
5			1		4			3
	2						5	
	5	3		8		9	1	
9			6		3			8

Difficulty Level ★ 10/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	9	1	4	3	6	7	2	8
2	6	3	1	7	8	9	4	5
7	8	4	2	9	5	1	6	3
1	2	6	7	5	4	8	3	9
9	3	7	8	2	1	6	5	4
4	5	8	3	6	9	2	1	7
8	4	2	9	1	3	5	7	6
6	1	9	5	4	7	3	8	2
3	7	5	6	8	2	4	9	1

Difficulty level ★★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DISNEY WORLD JUST TURNED 50! **Solution: 7 letters**

E	S	E	L	T	S	A	C	O	A	S	T	E	R	E
T	N	M	M	S	N	A	I	D	R	A	U	G	A	S
I	I	P	M	E	A	C	L	E	A	N	O	R	T	C
H	P	I	E	S	H	A	G	I	C	L	I	A	A	I
W	P	H	R	U	N	T	R	U	D	D	R	P	T	N
W	O	S	I	O	A	E	N	S	E	W	L	A	O	H
O	P	E	D	M	M	I	P	S	A	T	B	R	U	C
N	R	C	A	Y	V	A	C	R	E	I	E	A	I	E
S	I	A	S	E	R	E	S	I	P	A	L	D	L	T
P	N	P	R	K	N	S	N	L	G	N	L	E	L	O
L	C	S	L	C	T	N	U	S	R	A	E	B	E	R
A	E	E	E	I	I	T	Y	L	L	O	M	A	R	Y
S	S	I	T	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	Ⓝ	Ⓐ	Ⓛ	Ⓟ
H	S	C	R	E	S	O	R	T	S	U	L	L	E	Y
C	H	I	P	A	N	D	D	A	L	E	P	C	O	T

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 10/4

Ariel, Bears, Belle, Castle, Chip and Dale, Clean, Coaster, Donald, EARidescence, EPCOT, Gold, Guardians, Kingdom, Magic, Mary, Merida, Mickey Mouse, Minnie, Molly, Parade, Plan, Pluto, Poppins, Princess, Pyrotechnics, Ratatouille, Remy's, Resorts, Snow White, Spaceship, Sparkles, Splash, Star Wars, Stitch, Sulley, Theme, Tiana, Universe

Last Friday's Answer: Fishing

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Red Sox rally past Nats, in control of AL wild-card race

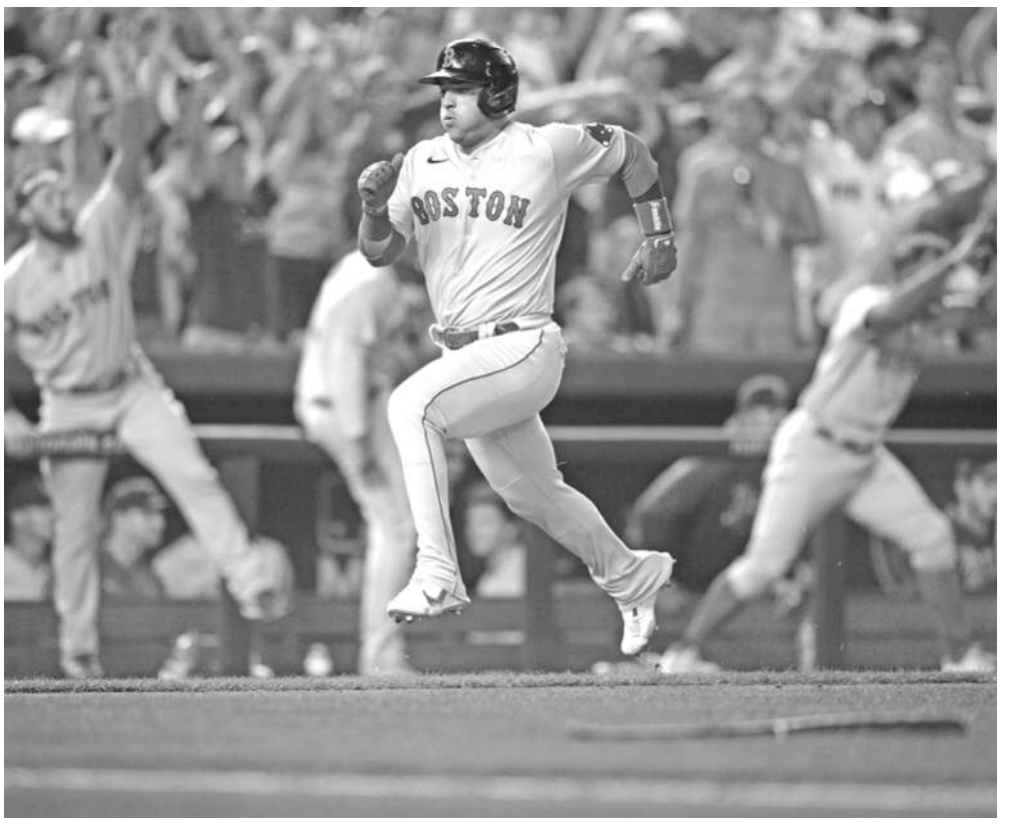
WASHINGTON (AP)— Christian Vázquez tripled home the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning and the Boston Red Sox moved to the brink of a postseason berth with a 5-3 win over the Washington Nationals on Saturday.

Boston is tied with the Yankees for the top AL wild card entering the final day of the regular season. The Red Sox will send ace Chris Sale to the mound Sunday needing a victory to punch a playoff ticket. If they win, they'll host Tuesday's wild-card game regardless of New York's outcome because Boston won the season series 10-9.

If the Red Sox lose Sunday, they will still be assured entry into a tiebreaker game Monday. The Red Sox are a game ahead of Toronto and 1 1/2 clear of Seattle, with the Mariners set to play the Angels on Saturday night.

Tanner Houck pitched five perfect innings, striking out eight, but Washington tied the game at 1 in the eighth inning on Juan Soto's long, bases-loaded sacrifice fly to center off Austin Davis (1-2).

J.D. Martinez led off the ninth with a walk for Boston, and Vázquez drilled a ball to right off closer Tanner Rainey (1-3) that easily scored pinch-runner José Iglesias for a 2-1 lead with two outs. Travis Shaw singled to drive in Vázquez, then Kiké Hernández homered into the Boston bullpen against Mason Thompson to push the lead to 5-1.



AP

Boston Red Sox' s Jose Iglesias runs toward home to score on a triple by Christian Vazquez during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, in Washington.

Rays 12, Yankees 2

In New York, Brandon Lowe hit three home runs and Tampa Bay rolled to a blowout that prevented New York from clinching a playoff spot.

With a chance to pitch his team into the postseason, Yankees starter Jordan Montgomery (6-7) instead was rocked for a career-worst seven earned runs in 2 2/3 innings. He gave up a pair of early three-run homers to Lowe, who also went deep in the seventh against Michael King.

New York is assured at least a tiebreaker game Monday that could put the team in the playoffs for the fifth straight season. But after dropping the first two games of this series, the Yankees no longer control their own destiny to host the wild-card game. They now need a Boston loss to do so.

Luis Patino (5-3) worked two hitless innings for the win.

Blue Jays 10, Orioles 1

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 47th home run and Toronto pressed its AL wild-card chase to the final day of the regular season by thumping Baltimore.

The Blue Jays launched five homers while Alek Manoah (9-2) allowed one hit over seven innings to help Toronto close within one game of the wild card-leading New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox.

George Springer, Teoscar Hernández, Bo Bichette and Danny Jansen all went deep for Toronto. The Blue Jays lead the majors with a franchise-record 258 home runs, topping the 257 they hit in 2010.

With his 450-foot drive off John Means (6-9) in the first, Guerrero closed within one of Kansas City's Salvador Perez for the major league lead.

Mariners 6, Angels 4

In Seattle, Mitch Haniger drove in five runs and his two-out, two-run single in the eighth inning gave Seattle the lead as the Mariners took their playoff hopes to the final day of the regular season.

Haniger had an RBI single in the third inning, clubbed his 39th homer in the fifth and came through with the bases loaded in the eighth after Seattle blew a 3-1 lead.

Seattle won't be able to claim one of two AL wild-card spots on the final day of the regular season, but it made game No. 162 matter, which hasn't been said often during Seattle's 20-year postseason drought.

Steve Cishek (0-2) couldn't find the plate in the eighth, hitting a batter and walking another to load the bases before Haniger's go-ahead hit.

Drew Steckenrider pitched the ninth for his 14th save.

Jared Walsh hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning off reliever Paul Sewald (10-3) to give the Angels a 4-3 lead.

Dodgers 8, Brewers 3

In Los Angeles, Julio Urías (20-3) became Los Angeles' first 20-game winner since Clayton Kershaw in 2014, pitching one-run ball into the seventh inning in a win that extended the NL West race to the final day of the regular season.

The first-place San Francisco Giants (106-55) lost to San Diego earlier Saturday, reducing their lead to one game. The Dodgers (105-56) must beat the Brewers on Sunday and hope the Giants lose again to tie for the title, which LA has won the last eight years. That would send them and Giants to a deciding Game 163 in San Francisco on Monday.

Los Angeles won its 14th consecutive home game, tying a 100-year-old franchise record.

Milwaukee's Corbin Burnes (11-5) made a brief start, pitching just two innings.

Giants 3, Padres 2

In San Francisco, San Francisco missed a chance to clinch the NL West, falling to San Diego when Jake Cronenworth hit an RBI double in the 10th inning.

A sellout crowd of 40,760 was ready to celebrate San Francisco's first division crown since 2012, but the Padres spoiled the party, sending the raucous group to the exits in a state of disbelief.

The Giants' seven-game winning streak ended, and the race was pushed to the final day when the Dodgers beat Milwaukee later in the day.

Mark Melancon retired the Giants in order in the bottom half to earn his major league-leading 39th save of the season. Tim Hill (6-6) got the win.

Kervin Castro (1-1) was charged with the loss for San Francisco

Astros 10, Athletics 4

In Houston, Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker hit two of Houston's four homers to lock up home-field advantage in the AL Division Series.

With the win, the AL West champion Astros will have host the first two games in their best-of-five match-up against the AL Central champion White Sox next week. The Astros own the tiebreaker over the White Sox, winning five out of seven against Chicago this season.

Phil Maton (6-0) loaded the bases with two outs in the fifth but induced a groundout by Seth Brown to earn the win.

Paul Blackburn (1-4) was tagged for a season-high six runs on seven hits in two innings.

White Sox 5, Tigers 4

In Chicago, Lucas Giolito tuned up for the playoffs with a solid start, Yoán Moncada hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning and Chicago beat Detroit for its sixth straight win.

Giolito finished his dominant second half by pitching five innings, allowing one run and two hits. He has not permitted more than three runs in any of his last nine starts. Giolito fanned three and finished the regular season with 201 strikeouts.

Chicago reliever Aaron Bummer (5-5) worked the eighth and Liam Hendricks closed for his 38th save.

Moncada capped a three-RBI performance when he connected with two outs off reliever Kyle Funkouser (7-4).

Cubs 6, Cardinals 5

In St. Louis, Ian Happ drove a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning to sour what could be Jon Lester's final career start, lifting Chicago over St. Louis.

Lester, 37, hasn't declared whether he intends to come back for a 17th season. The left-hander pitched for the Cubs for six seasons, including the 2016 World Series team.

Happ drove a 2-0 pitch from Luís Garcia (1-1) over the center-field wall for his career-high 25th home run of the season.

The blast made a winner out of Jason Adam (1-0), who pitched a perfect eighth. Rowan Wick picked up his fifth save as the Cubs sent the Cardinals to just their second defeat in their last 21 games.

Braves 6, Mets 5

In Atlanta, Joc Pederson hit a solo homer off Carlos Carrasco (1-5) in the third inning, William Contreras went deep with a two-run shot off Carrasco in the fourth and Atlanta beat New York.

The NL East champion Braves have won seven of eight. New York, which stranded the bases loaded in a two-run ninth inning, ended a two-game winning streak and will try Sunday to win the season series with Atlanta for the first time since 2017.

Jesse Chavez started in a bullpen game for the Braves and tossed two perfect innings. Drew Smyly (11-4), who lost his spot in the rotation after losing at the Los Angeles Dodgers on Aug. 30, pitched around two walks in the fourth and a single the next inning.

Rangers 7, Indians 2

In Arlington, Texas, Jordan Lyles closed his season by allowing only two hits in seven innings and rookie Jonah Heim broke a fourth-inning tie with a three-run home run to help Texas beat Cleveland.

Lyles (10-13) matched his longest start of the year and his most strikeouts with eight. He has 146 strikeouts this season to match his career best, set in 2019 splitting time between Pittsburgh and Milwaukee. He pitched a career-high 180 innings.

Heim pulled the first pitch from Triston McKenzie (5-9) into the first row of right-field seats as the Rangers (60-101) won for the fifth time in their last eight games.

Pirates 8, Reds 6

In Pittsburgh, Bryan Reynolds had four hits, raising his batting average above .300, to help Pittsburgh rally from a five-run deficit and beat Cincinnati.

The Pirates went ahead for good 7-6 in the sixth inning when Reynolds tripled in a run. The Reds had tied it in the top of the inning on Tyler Stephenson's RBI double.

Nick Mears (1-0) got one out for his first major league win and Chris Stratton notched his eighth save with a perfect ninth inning. Tony Santillan (1-3) was the losing pitcher.

Twins 4, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Griffin Jax and a trio of relievers combined on a three-hitter and Minnesota blanked Salvador Perez and Kansas City.

Perez was hitless in four at-bats for the second straight night as he tries to break the team record for home runs. Leading the majors with 48 — one more than Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. — Perez is tied with Jorge Soler (2019) for the most by a Royals player.

Jax (4-5) allowed just one hit in five innings. The rookie, who came into the game with a 6.78 ERA, struck out three and walked two in the best of his 14 starts in the majors.

Kris Bubic (6-7) gave up two earned runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out five and didn't walk a batter.

Marlins 3, Phillies 1

In Miami, Jesús Luzardo struck out a career-high 11 and Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a three-run homer to help Miami beat Philadelphia.

Luzardo (6-9) gave up one run and six hits in 5 1/3 innings. The left-hander also walked twice and scored the lead run on Chisholm's shot. Dylan Floro closed with a scoreless ninth around a single for his 14th save.

In his second major league outing, Hans Crouse (0-2) was lifted after four innings. He allowed three runs, two hits, struck out one and walked three.

Diamondbacks 11, Rockies 2

In Phoenix, Pavin Smith reached base five times and Arizona chased Antonio Senzatela (4-10) with a six-run first inning.

Christian Walker had three doubles and Zac Gallen contributed a two-run double in the big first inning for the Diamondbacks (51-110). The win snapped the Diamondbacks' losing streak at five games, and assured they will not break the franchise record of 111 losses set in 2004. They play Colorado in the season finale for both teams on Sunday.

Gallen (4-10), who won last Saturday against the playoff-bound Los Angeles Dodgers, went six innings and gave up six hits and two runs, both on homers. He struck out six and walked two.

McPherson makes FG as time expires, Bengals beat Jags, 24-21

CINCINNATI (AP)—Joe Burrow spoiled Urban Meyer's return to Ohio and kept his former college coach winless on an NFL sideline.

Burrow engineered four second-half scoring drives while passing for 348 yards and two touchdowns and the Bengals overcame a 14-0 halftime deficit to beat Meyer and the Jacksonville Jaguars 24-21 on Thursday night.

Evan McPherson won it with a 35-yard field goal as time ran out, culminating a 10-play, 73-yard drive that consumed the last 5 1/2 minutes.

Burrow, the top overall draft pick in 2020 out of LSU after transferring from Ohio State, outdueled the 2021 top pick, Jacksonville quarterback Trevor Lawrence, who looked at halftime as if he might direct his first NFL win and create a happy homecoming for his coach. Meyer grew up in northeastern Ohio, played safety at the University of Cincinnati and won the 2014 national championship coaching at Ohio State.

The Bengals (3-1) were shut out in the first half and couldn't get running back Joe Mixon loose. McPherson missed a 43-yard field-goal attempt, and Cincinnati punted on the next three possessions.

AP

Cincinnati Bengals kicker Evan McPherson, left, celebrates after kicking the game-winning field goal against the Jacksonville Jaguars in an NFL football game, Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, in Cincinnati.

"We did not play great football, they generally beat us in all three phases" in the first half, Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor said. "But we get a whole second half to play, so there was no reason to panic. Nobody did. Everyone was calm, cool and collected. They knew we were going to get the ball to start the half where we are usually pretty efficient."

Cincinnati had two quick scoring drives to open the second. James Robinson's second rushing touchdown put Jacksonville up again early in the fourth quarter. Burrow answered with a 31-yard touchdown pass to tight end C.J. Uzomah to tie it again.

After the Jaguars punted, Burrow set up McPherson, who has the winning kick in two of Cincinnati's three victories.

"I'm really happy with my performance tonight," Burrow said. "I'm going to keep building on this and getting better and better."

The Jaguars scored in the first half on a 6-yard plunge by Robinson and a 7-yard keeper by Lawrence.

It could have been worse for Cincinnati at the break. Lawrence was stopped by linebacker Logan Wilson on fourth-and-goal at the 1 with under a minute left in the half.

"When you control the game like we did in the first — and it should've been 21-0," Lawrence said. "The second half, we didn't do a good job of holding on to the ball. They scored the quick touchdown and then we went three-and-out."

Lawrence was 17 for 24 for 204 yards.

"Trevor took care of the ball," Meyer said. "Trevor played his best game. He's coming alive."

Tyler Boyd had nine receptions for 118 yards for the Bengals. Uzomah had five catches for 95 yards and two touchdowns.

Robinson rushed for a season-high 78 yards.

"We have to regroup a little," Lawrence said. "This one hurts."

Both team will have 10 days to ruminate on Thursday night's game. Meyer said that will be especially tough for the winless Jags.

"That's a heartbroken locker room," he said. "We've got to get them back."

The Bengals have extra time to prepare for Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers after winning twice in five days. Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh 24-10 last Sunday.

"It is critical to get this momentum going into a 10-day work week against an opponent who's been in the last two AFC championship games," Taylor said.

The Bengals inducted four into the team's new Ring of Honor. The inaugural class included Paul Brown, the team's founder and first coach; Hall of Fame tackled Anthony Munoz (1980-92); quarterback Ken Anderson (1971-86) and cornerback Ken Riley (1969-83).

Ultimate chess match on tap as Brady faces Pats for 1st time

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady's legacy is forever steeped in each of the six Super Bowl championship banners he had a part in hanging above New England's Gillette Stadium.

Yet, he might as well be playing in front of a mirror when he returns to face the Patriots.

Everything will be in reverse.

"I know that home locker room. I know that home tunnel. I know which way the wind blows. I know everything about that," Brady said this week. "So, in some ways it'll be unique. I've never had that experience. New England will be the first time for me being on the other sideline."

Brady will be back in Foxborough on Sunday night to meet the Patriots for the first time since he left after 20 seasons to join the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He'll be opposite not only former coach Bill Belichick, but past teammates who have also never taken an NFL field and looked across at Brady wearing another team's jersey, let alone ever had a chance to tackle him.

"The opportunity is wonderful and I'm looking forward for the moment," Patriots defensive end Deatrich Wise Jr. said.

While they all have played against former teammates before, the Patriots acknowledge this time is much different. None of those other players has the institutional knowledge Brady does of their defensive schemes or tendencies.

It makes the margin for error minute against a quarterback who is a master at getting the ball out quickly and reading and deceiving defenses with his eyes.

"It's gonna be a guy that he's gonna know a lot of what we do," said veteran safety Devin McCourty, who won three Super Bowls with Brady. "So what we do, we've gotta do a good job of. We have to play our best football."

This 44-year-old version of Brady is still playing at a high level after taking the Bucs to a Super Bowl title last season. He leads the league this season with 10 touchdown passes and his 362.3 passing yards per game are second to Las Vegas' Derek Carr.

Tampa Bay's 34.3 points per game are also tied for tops in the NFL, thanks largely to one of the most stacked offenses in the league that includes receivers Chris Godwin and Mike Evans.

"This is one of those weeks where we can't have a bunch of 'my bads,'" McCourty said. "We gotta be on."

At least New England won't have to worry about Rob Gronkowski, another old friend. The tight end, who teamed with Brady on so many big plays over the years with the Patriots, is out because of a rib injury.

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, left, stands with head coach Bill Belichick, right, during an NFL football practice, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass.

As much as Brady knows the Patriots, they also know him. But Belichick, 8-11 since Brady's departure, said it doesn't mean they will reinvent themselves this week.

"Certainly, Tom has an intimate knowledge of everything that we do here, more so than any other player in the league by far. So, I'm sure he'll use it to his advantage. I would expect him to," Belichick said. "I don't think it would be in our best interest to go in there and do everything differently than we've done it all year. What we need to do is continue to do the things we do and do them better. That would help us more than anything else."

ELITE CLUB

A victory would make Brady the fourth quarterback with wins against all 32 NFL teams, joining Brett Favre, Drew Brees and Peyton Manning. With 68 yards passing Brady will surpass Brees' mark of 80,358 yards, most ever in the regular season. It would add to his long list of NFL records that already includes most TD passes (591), most wins as a starting quarterback (232), most Super Bowl titles (seven), and most conference championships (10).

SHAQ ATTACK

For all the talk about what Brady's arrival in Tampa Bay did for the offense, the defense has been a big part of the team's success, too. In addition to leading the league in rushing defense each of the past two seasons, the Bucs have had one of the league's most effective pass rushes since Todd Bowles was hired as coordinator in 2019.

Linebacker Shaquil Barrett topped the NFL with 19 1/2 sacks two years ago and finished with eight during the regular season in 2020. He has one through three games this year, none the past two weeks.

As a team, the Bucs are last in the league with three sacks.

"I think Todd knows and Shaq knows it's time to get to the quarterback," coach Bruce Arians said. "Just one sack is not good enough."

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Arians is noted for his success working with quarterbacks over a long career as a NFL assistant and head coach. Manning, Ben Roethlisberger, Andrew Luck, Carson Palmer and Jameis Winston are among the high draft picks Arians mentored over the years.

The coach, who turns 69 on Sunday, likes what he's seen so far from New England rookie Mac Jones.

"I loved him coming out. He's smart, a pocket player who's going to get the ball out, and he's very accurate," Arians said. "Obviously, pressure doesn't bother him. He played in some big games (at Alabama). He led his team to the championship so, yeah, he's legit."

NO GRONK

Gronkowski spent nine seasons with the Patriots and ended his tenure with 521 receptions for 7,861 yards and 79 touchdowns, the most receiving TDs in franchise history.

But a person familiar with the situation said Saturday that Gronk did not travel with the Super Bowl champions for his anticipated return to New England. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because Gronkowski's status had not been updated by the team.

Gronkowski, 32, was listed as doubtful on Friday. It's the first game he has missed since he came out of retirement to play alongside Brady with the Buccaneers.

Gronkowski had 45 receptions for 623 yards and seven touchdowns in his first season with Tampa Bay, and then caught four more TD passes from Brady during the team's 2-1 start this year.

3-peats for Simon, Vivian in 50m open water swim

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Like the Chicago Bulls in the NBA in '90s, Simon Shindo and Vivian Chung completed a three-peat in Saipan Swim Club's final Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series after winning the finals 50m race last Sept. 25 in the waters off Civic Center Beach in Susupe.

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Shindo topped the men's category in 1:23.67. He was followed by teammates Xing Chen Wang and Seungwoo Lee with times of 1:32.58 and 1:47.10, respectively.

Shindo said after dominating the 50m, he would challenge himself by entering the 100m in the next open water swim.

"I really enjoyed the ocean swim. I was looking forward to join the ocean swim again and next time I would like to try 100 meters. My target was to win the gold medal," he said.

MARK RABAGO

Leo Li, Antonio Heras, and Shane Mabutas finished Top 3 in the boys 25m race of Saipan Swim Club's final Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series.

MARK RABAGO

Andrea Ryu, Daria Shatskova, and Fiona Yu finished Top 3 in the girls 25m race of Saipan Swim Club's final Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series.

Wang cherished his experience during the open water swim. "I very much enjoyed joining this event with all the swimmers. It makes me greatly improve my ability. Also I feel very thankful for my coach's guidance. I look forward to participating in other events in the future."

» Li also 3-for-3 in 25m

Lee said he's content finishing third in the final open water swim.

"I'm happy that I was third place. During ocean swimming, I expected to meet a stingray but I didn't. My brother saw one and told me they flew in the ocean. It sounds amazing! I want to be first place next time. I love to improve my swimming at Team Tsunami. I am also very thankful to Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro [Kimura]."

Chung, another product of Tsunami Saipan, also made it 3-for-3 in the 50m distance for women. She arrived in the beach at 1:22.47. She was followed by teammates Catalina Frink in 1:27.06 and Sera Guerrero in 1:35.72.

The three-time open water champ in the half century race said the final open water swim was a pretty competitive race.

"During the race, I thought I would come in second. Still, I thought I had to do my best, so I swam really hard. When I crossed the finish line, I realized I was in first place. I was so happy. It's an honor to be lucky enough to receive three gold medals for my first Triple Crown Open Water Swim," she said.

Chung's parents said it was a fun event to see the swimmers excited and ready for the final race of the open water series.

"Vivian was happy she won as it was a close competitive race. Thanks to coach Hiro, Tsunami Saipan, Saipan Swim Club, and all the parents and volunteers for the support and making these events memorable to the swimmers," they said.

Frink said the final race was both fun and hard. "It was fun but it's hard when there are people pulling my legs."

Guerrero said practice paid off when she came in third in the 50m race. "Swimming practice in the ocean sometimes makes me feel scared but I'm glad I made this ocean swim meet. I'm happy to get third place this time.

In the 20m, Leo Li finished first in the men's in 1:01.71, followed by fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Antonio Heras in 1:03.43 and SSC's Shane Mabutas in 1:04.25.

Like Shindo and Chung, Li's win last Sept. 25 also allowed him to sweep the open water series. "I like swimming and I'm happy I got the gold medal again. Thanks to coach Hiro also."

"I felt very good and thank you for your lessons, coach. You are the best coach ever!" added Heras.

Andrea Ryu topped the women's 25m in 1:04.55. Daria Shatskova was second in 1:11.31 and Fiona Yu third in 1:13.40.

Ryu's mother was just elated she pulled off the win despite being sick days before the race.

"The day before the competition, my daughter had a fever and cough. Luckily her condition improved and the weather was good on the day. Through the three ocean swimming competitions, I think Andrea had an opportunity to gain confidence in swimming. She was very happy and satisfied with the results. Thank you all the staff and coach Hiro for helping the competition run safely," she said.

Shatslova's mother said their daughter was truly excited days before the final open water swim competition, but was a little worried after she missed a few practices due to a cold.

"She didn't want to miss the race and it was important for her to participate. It was hard to predict the result, but she did great by concentrating and putting the effort during the swim. She was very happy to get the second place silver medal three times in a row. Dasha herself said she didn't feel it was too hard, as the water was calm this time," she said.

Yu said she's beginning to like ocean swims more and more. "She's adapting to the sea and she has been a lot more relaxed compared to the previous races," her mother added.

SSC coach Richard Sikkel congratulated all the winners of the final Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series and said they were also fortunate that Tropical Depression 20W veered away from the islands a day before the race.

"The weather gods smiled upon us with fair conditions, flat water, and a double rainbow to start of the race. We had a total of 125 registrations. Times were fast with the flat conditions and this being the final in a three-race series," he said.

Sikkel said he was also amazed with the improved times of all the swimmers.

"All swimmers knew what to expect and what they had to improve on to register a better performance. In the 500m the fastest time was just over 8 minutes, the 1,000m course record dropped to 12 minutes and 27 seconds, and the 1,500m course time to beat is a blistering 19 minutes and 25 seconds," he said.

KOBLER

From Page 20

for Koblervile when he found his target in the 12th minute. Koblerville 1 kept shaky halftime lead, as Garapan 2 failed to counter in the first half. The Mallards continued to struggle offensively in the second half, while Pangelinan gave Koblerville 1 the insurance with his goal in the 32nd minute of the semis match.

In the other Final Four pairing, SIS also denied Garapan 1's bid for a finals stint after the dominating win. The Geckos drew goals from four different players to eliminate Garapan 1.

Lukas Lee hit the board first for SIS with his early goal in the fourth minute. The rest of the Geckos' goals all came in the second half with Jude Rayphand lifting the team to a 2-0 lead after converting his shot in the 37th minute. Just a minute later, it was Quido Jambor's turn to contribute to SIS' lopsided win, while Yutaro Kitagawa closed out for the Geckos in the 40th minute.

SIS will come into this Wednesday's one-game finals unbeaten in five games. The Geckos swept the three matches in Group A and then ousted San Vicente Elementary School 2, 5-1, and Garapan 1 to move one win away from clinching the division championship.

Koblerville 1 took the same route to the finals when it swept its three matches in Group B before knocking out William S. Reyes Elementary School 2, 6-0, and Garapan 2 to keep the Umangs' hopes for back-to-back titles alive.

Meanwhile, Garapan 1 and 2 will battle for the third place honors this Wednesday at 4:30pm.

SIS

From Page 20

the year and it paid off with a win. We have made many improvements in our defense, especially on playing the net tougher. Our servers have gotten better and helped us stay in the game," he said.

GCA 1, meanwhile, continued its march to perfection after a 25-6, 25-8 manhandling of Mt. Carmel School 3.

The Lady Knights 3's sister team didn't fare any better in their game against Marianas High School 3 after the Lady Dolphins 3 beat MCS 2, 25-11, 25-23. The win raised MHS 3's record to 2-5.

MHS 1 made it 0-3 for Mt. Carmel School that game day as the Lady Dolphins 1 kept pace with GCA 1 with a 25-21, 25-20 victory. SIS 1 also won again, beating GCA 2 in a tough three-setter, 25-8, 12-25, 15-6. MHS 2 then made 3-for-3 for all three Lady Dolphins teams Thursday following a hard-fought 25-12, 20-25, 15-12 win over SSHS 1.

The NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 continued last Saturday, but results of the six-game schedule were not available as of press time. The league resumes tomorrow with SSHS 1 vs MHS 1 and MCS 2 vs SIS 1 in the 4:30pm first games. The 5:30pm second matches will then have SIS 2 going up against GCA 1 and MHS 2 facing MCS 3. The final 6:15pm schedule will then pit GCA 2 against MHS 2 and SIS 1 taking on sister team SIS 2.

REX

From Page 20

High School's John Kae Raquepo completed the Top 3 in 22.21.

Coming in second in the high school boys team category was SSHS with GCA third.

Chavez, who like Pixley is also from SIS, was the first to cross the finish line among the high school girls runners with a time of 21.4. She was followed by teammates Tiana Cabrera, who came in at 23.36, and Serin Chung in 26.08.

"It was alright. It was hot and the hills killed me but it was an alright run," said Chavez.

She agreed that it was also a good bounce-back run after she, Pixley, and other runners missed the turnaround point in the second qualifier at Ladder Beach last Sept. 20.

Chavez added that last Saturday's race was also a good way to familiarize herself for the cross country championship next week.

"Maybe I will take it. I will try," she said when asked if she will win the championship next week. She admitted that Cabrera is her fiercest rival but at the same time acknowledged they're still teammates and train closely together.

With Chavez, Cabrera, and Chung finishing 1-2-3 in the high school girls team division, the Lady Geckos topped the category followed by SSHS.

Results of the middle school and elementary divisions will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Kagman High School track and field coach Nick Brennfleck said his school was honored to host the third qualifying meet for cross country.

"We'd like to thank coach Elias Rangamar for helping us secure the beautiful course at Saipan Vegas. It was impressive to see the turnout of runners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The joy on all the participants' and parents' faces as they crossed the finish line was a testament to the importance of hosting more meets in the future," he said.

Brennfleck added that the third qualifier KagHS hosted wouldn't have been possible with the help of Northern Marianas Athletics and their army of selfless volunteers.

"We, of course, relied heavily on the expertise of community leaders for fostering a love for running in the CNMI. We'd like to thank Dr. Ron Snyder, Ed Dela Cruz, Robin Sapong, Nick and Rhonda Gross, Kagman High School NHS members, NMA, and all of the officiating crew who dedicate their Saturday mornings to give our student-athletes a chance to compete and help promote healthy lifestyles."

Red Sox rally past Nats, in control of AL wild-card race

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

3-peats for Simon, Vivian in 50m open water swim

PAGE 19

Rex, Kaithlyn complete 'redeem' runs

Chavez

Pixley

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Chomping at the bit after bungling the turnaround during the last qualifier, Rex Pixley and Kaithlyn Chavez ran like there was no tomorrow and topped the high school division of the final PSS/NMA Cross Country Qualifier last Saturday at the old Saipan Country Club golf course behind Saipan Vegas.

» SIS sweeps HS division

Pixley led Saipan International School to first place in the high school boys after running the course in 18.44.

"It was pretty difficult. It was hot. The grass makes it a little bit harder because it's soft. But it was a pretty good course. It's not too hilly," he said moments after completing the 5-kilometer race.

While the first qualifier's topnotcher Dev Bachani of Marianas High School sat out the race, Pixley vows to continue to run his best time in the cross championships set next week at the same venue.

"I'm going to try my best. My goal is to break 19.00 consistently in 5K," he said while sneaking some glances on Bachani.

Grace Christian Academy's Theodore Rodgers, who topped the second qualifier on the road leading up to Ladder Beach, came in second in a time of 21.54, while Saipan Southern

See REX on Page 19

MARK RABAGO

Seen here in a file photo in their game against Marianas High School 1, Saipan International School 2 finally scored their first win in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 after beating Saipan Southern High School 2 last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Kobler back in finals, faces SIS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School is returning to the finals and will be batting Saipan International School for the division championship in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022.

Koblervillle 1 advanced to the title game following a 2-0 win over Garapan Elementary School 2 last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, while SIS also had shutout victory against Garapan 1, 4-0, to reach the finale that will be played this Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 5:30pm. The Umangs are hoping to defend the elementary division championship, as Koblerville 2 secured the 2020-2021 title after dominating Saipan Community School in the finals, 6-2, in April this year.

Eleazir Mettao and Napu Pangelinan brought Koblerville back to the finals after scoring the twin goals for the Umangs. Mettao drew first blood

See KOBLER on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Koblerville Elementary School 1's Napu Pangelinan, right, and Morris Atalig exchange fives after the former scored in one of their pool play games in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2021-2022 last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

SIS 2 scores 1st win; GCA 1 rolls to 6th straight

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While Grace Christian Academy 1 continued to bulldoze the opposition by posting its sixth straight win, Saipan International School 2 finally winning in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season was the feel-good story of last Thursday's matches at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos 2 have lost five straight entering their game against Saipan Southern High School 2, but in a battle of winless teams, one team was bound to emerge the victor.

SIS 2 was fortunate to be that team as they finally hit pay dirt while leaving the Lady Manta Rays 2 winless with its sixth straight loss. The Lady Geckos 2 took the first set, 25-17, before encountering more resistance in the second but eventually pulled off a 25-19 win to finally enter the win column at 1-5.

The Lady Geckos 2 roster includes Sophia Brasuell, SeoHee Lee, Lian Qi-Lucy Li, LishaL a i , Olivia Hwang, Jin Hee-Cathy Woo, Stephanie Kim, Charlene Son, Soledad Sablan, Elizabeth Tom, and Yebin Shin.

SIS 2 coach Scotty Moen applauded his team following the breakthrough win against SSHS 2.

"It was a great win for the team. They played their best game of

See SIS on Page 19